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Cavs, Spurs wrap up series

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, May 7, 2006 ** 12 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 148 P18

Fidel Castro among world's richest rulers; Saudi is No. 1

NEW YORK—CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO was furious when Forbes magazine estimated his fortune at [illegible] last year. This year, the magazine upped its estimate of the communist leader's wealth to a cool $500 million.

Castro, 79, who says his net worth is nil, is likely the beneficiary of up to $900 million, based on his control of state-owned companies, the United States financial magazine said in its annu

FIDEL A9

Recto U: Fake diplomas taint name of late senator

By Jerry E. Esplanada

GRADUATING FROM Recto University is as easy as 1-2-3.

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RECTO A17

'Let's go easy on Erap'

Aragoncillo plea does not mean Estrada et al. are guilty, says SolGen

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Armand N. Nocum

AFTER THREE LEGAL SETbacks at the Supreme Court, two senior Malacañang advisers—Solicitor General Antonio Nachura and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita—want the Palace to go slow in filing a case against foes linked by a Filipino-American intelligence analyst to a supposed plot to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday sounded like he wanted to deliver a knockout blow as soon as possible.

Nachura said what former Federal Bureau of Investigation officer Leandro Aragoncillo had done in passing information to opposition leaders here might be criminal in US government interests, "but we must determine whether it is also criminal to our own laws."

"There are perhaps different standards and different ways to look at this case," Nachura said in an interview.

Aragoncillo on Thursday pleaded guilty before a US District Court in New Jersey to using his access to White House and FBI computers to deliver secret information to Mr Arroyo's political opponents.

Documents filed in the US court named Aragoncillo's supposed co-conspirators as former President Joseph Estrada, Sen. Panfilo Lacson and former House Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella. A US justice department official said another House member and a Metro Manila mayor were also allegedly involved.

Aragoncillo's testimony prompted Gonzalez and Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor to say that rebellion

LETS A14

TERRACES VILLAGE
A village and age-old rice terraces compete for space on the slope of this Bontoc highland some 18 kilometers from Sagada of hanging coffin fame. The ancestors of the Hague built these terraces a few thousand years ago and they are now maintained the traditional way by the residents of the village. BOY CRUZ

Batasan 5's bold challenge: Come and get us

By Philip C. Tubeza and Juliet Labog-Javellana

IF THEY ARE ARRESTED, IT WILL BE "politically bloody" for the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, the five left-wing party-list lawmakers in the protective custody of the House of Representatives warned yesterday.

Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casiño and Joel Virador of Bayan Muna, Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis, and Liza Maza of Gabriela said at a press conference that they had decided to leave the Batasan complex tomorrow despite the police threat to arrest them.

The lawmakers were collectively known as the "Batasan 5" asserted that the government had no case against them after Makati Judge Jenny Lind Delfina rejected on Thursday an amended criminal complaint filed by the Department of Justice.

The complaint sought to include the Batasan 5, former Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan and 40 others in the rebellion case earlier filed against Arakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran and Int. Lt. Lieutenant San Juan.

They declared their innocence of the charge and said the government would first have to secure a warrant from the court before the police could arrest them.

Ocampo said he and his colleagues would see administration officials should the police insist on arresting them.

Said Casiño: "If we are arrested when we go out [tomorrow], it will not be violent. We will not resist, but it will be bloody, politically bloody, for the Arroyo regime.

"They will bleed in the courts. They will bleed on the bar of public opinion for their illegal and immoral act. They should first think about this."

Reading from the joint statement of

BATASAN A8

DEPARTING CHIEF
President Macapagal-Arroyo marches with Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga at Villamor Air Base shortly before her departure for Macau yesterday. (Story on Page A2.) ERNIE PEÑA

A FORMER LEPER'S STORY

Culion: Island of living dead no longer

By Veli Contreras

CULION, PALAWAN—THIS ISLAND TOWN marked its centennial yesterday as a "leper colony," but it continues to raise the hope that the dreaded disease would finally be stricken off public health statistics and, more importantly, the public psyche.

That hope is perhaps best expressed by one of the guests who showed up, a young woman who, despite being declared cured of leprosy in 2001, managed to find a regular job only six months ago.

By her own account, the case of Chris Fernandez, 30, illustrates the plight of many Filipinos scourged by this ancient disease, one that Jesus Christ was said to have banished with miracles.

"We can handle the physical pain," she told the reporter in Filipino. "It's the discrimination owing to the lack of understanding about the nature of the disease that hurts us more deeply."

Chris said the first symptoms appeared when she was a sixth grader in Tacloban City. White spots on her hands and cheeks that turned reddish whenever she got tired.

Coming from a poor family with meager means for medical care, she endured those recurring symptoms until she was in college in Manila.

By the time she was diagnosed with leprosy, her face and hands had become slightly disfigured. She was then in her sophomore year in accounting and bookkeeping at the National College of Business Administration in Sta. Mesa.

CHRIS Fernandez, a former leprosy patient, now holds a job after years of looking: "We can handle the physical pain. It's the discrimination that hurts us more deeply." ERWIN ALCANTARA

Her guardian in Manila, a friend of her mother's, sent her back to Tacloban. She enrolled up at the Bromley Childs Sanitarium in Mandaue City, Cebu, where she was treated for two years from 1996 to 1997.

Chris would have a "relapse" in 1998 but was pronounced cured a year later.

Since her discharge from the sanitarium, she has been living alone in a rented room in Sitio Sta. Cruz, Barangay Jagobiao, Mandaue City.

At one point, a nongovernment organization, the Philippine Leprosy Mission Inc. (PL-

MI) granted her a scholarship that enabled her to earn a degree in elementary education at the University of the Visayas.

Armed with a diploma, she went job-hunting in Cebu—only to realize that her hardships, even as an ex-PWL (person with leprosy), had merely entered a new chapter.

"I applied for many jobs—store cashier, saleswoman, call center agent, office staff. I would always pass the written exams," Chris said. "But it's during the interview that they would begin to ask questions about the scars

CULION A12

A1
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2005

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

3 railway execs charged with plunder

By TJ Burgonio

THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS) yesterday filed plunder charges against three top officials of the Philippine National Railways Corp. with the Ombudsman for allegedly failing to remit their employees' GSIS contributions in the amount of P132 million.

Charged were PNR general manager Jose Ma. A. Sarmiento II, assistant general manager Rafael T. Montes and finance department head Lynn A. Chiong.

GSIS chief legal counsel Leighton Dizon filed the complaint against the PNR officials with the Ombudsman.

The PNR officials could be buried liable for plunder, largescale estafa, grave misconduct, dishonesty, oppression of PNR workers, conduct prejudicial to the best interest of service and grave neglect of duty, the GSIS said in a statement.

"With obvious unbridled, utter, abuse of confidence and deceitful conduct, the officials misappropriated, misapplied and/or converted the amount they collected and deducted, to the damage and prejudice of the GSIS and its members," the GSIS said.

Economic sabotage

The GSIS said the violations amounted to economic sabotage because these threatened the actuarial solvency of the GSIS funds, and "eroded the confidence" of its millions of members and the public.

In the complaint, Dizon charged that the PNR officials deducted and collected their workers' contributions to GSIS from their salaries amounting to P132,364,305, but failed to remit these to the state pension fund.

Dizon said that failure to remit the contributions violated the GSIS Act of 1997.

In back to complaint, the GSIS furnished Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez with a statement of collectibles from the PNRC, a certification attesting that the contributions of PNR employees had been deducted, and copies of GSIS demand letters and notices to the PNRC since 2001.

"The failure and refusal [by PNRC] to remit the personal share of GSIS employees gravely affected GSIS operations and the performance and effective exercise of its functions, including the dispensation of benefits to its employees and millions of members," the GSIS said in its complaint.

Subpoena documents

Dizon also requested the Ombudsman to subpoena documents such as payroll records, Commission on Audit observation reports, financial statements and individual employee account ledgers.

These documents would prove that PNR officials and personnel "conceived to accumulate, amass and acquire" over P58 million in GSIS funds in violation of the plunder law, Dizon said.

The GSIS also urged the Ombudsman to issue a preventive suspension order against the PNRC officials pending the conduct of administrative proceedings against them.

The suspension would preempt the tampering of officials' records, documents and other evidence and stop PNRC officials and personnel from exercising undue influence, coercion and threat" against employees who might turn state's evidence, it said.

Oil on top of GMA agenda in Saudi Arabia

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Abigail L. Ho

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO WILL explore ways to soften the impact of rising crude oil prices on the Filipino people in her talks with top officials of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the country's main source of oil.

"We still don't know the possible arrangements that can be agreed on, whether this will be on supply or the price," Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said.

Defensor said that a possibility would be to renew Saudi Arabia's support through Saudi Aramco which sits on Petron Corp., the country's biggest petroleum company, in partnership with the Philippine government.

"We might explore the links between Saudi Aramco and Petron to make special arrangements to ease the impact of oil prices on the public," Defensor said. Ms Arroyo is expected to tour the facilities of Aramco during her visit.

In her departure statement yesterday, President Arroyo said: "I have high hopes for the future of our relations and I hope that my visit in Saudi Arabia will further strengthen our ties, reinforce economic ties as well as open new avenues for cooperation and engagement."

The President has encouraged Petron and other oil suppliers to sell discounted diesel to more gasoline stations outside Metro Manila to benefit more public utility drivers.

For the second time this month, oil firms yesterday raised pump prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 60 centavos a liter.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Chevron Philippines Inc. raised prices for gasoline starting, followed by new player Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc. also today.

Jaime Pedroso Cruz, Petron Corp.'s chief financial officer, said the company's Unleaded Blaze 91 price will be increased by P0.60 a liter, while Blaze 97 will be raised by P0.60 a liter.

Unleaded Blaze 100 will be increased by P0.70 a liter, while diesel will be raised by P0.60 a liter.

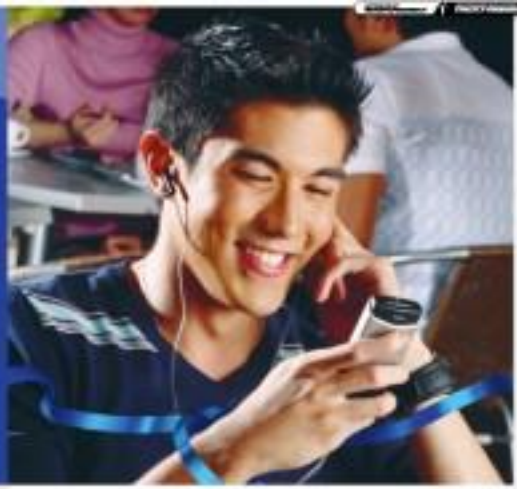
Cruz said the price of kerosene will be increased by P0.60 a liter.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. said its new prices for gasoline, diesel and kerosene will be announced today.

Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc. raised prices for unleaded gasoline by P0.60 a liter, diesel by P0.60 a liter and kerosene by P0.60 a liter.

Chevron Philippines Inc. raised prices for gasoline starting, followed by new player Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc. raised prices for unleaded gasoline by P0.60 a liter, diesel by P0.60 a liter and kerosene by P0.60 a liter

"Gusto ko parang computer na ang cellphone ko."



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What Drives You CALTEX

GMA names Fianza new racing commission chief

By GMC Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS SET TO announce the appointment of former police Chief Supt. Reynaldo Fianza as head of the Philippine Racing Commission (Philracom) following the dismissal of its former chief on corruption charges.

This was confirmed to Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor amid speculation that the names of former Philracom chair Jaime Dilag and National Dairy Authority administrator Salvador M. Jimenez were publicly mentioned.

Dilag was recommended to Philracom in 2002 by Jose "Pepeng" Cojuangco who was linked by a Time magazine report to the failed P40- 24 coup plot against President Arroyo which was supposedly launched in his Forbes Park mansion.

Reliable in the web of Gerry Bulaong, a nominee of the Black and White Movement which narrowly nosed out Arroyo's congressmen.

Three Philracom board members—Edwardo Jose, Angelito Banayo and Bernardo Vistan—have tendered their resignations in protest of his dismissal, Dilag said.

Dilag said the Philippine Anti-Crab Commission, which he reorganized, has dismissed for alleged maltreatment of female, should have ensured that one against him at the Commission.

The PCGC charged Dilag with misappropriating funds corresponding to the prizes in Philippine-sponsored races, non-remittance of unclaimed dividends and failing a public relations firm without a public bidding.

"I would not have feared the charges in my position if I was doing what they accused me of," said Dilag.

In the case of Bulaong, the former MCA's head disproved the findings of the PCGC which accused her of hiring a foreign consultant and a fraudulent and agency without public bidding.

She said she realized the hiring of a foreign consultant in 2001 because she was still new at the job and she had handed the affairs of the agency to her subordinates. Bulaong also said that McCann Erickson's services were free.

"I sincerely believe the positive measures implanted under such he authority of my dismissal are unfair," said Bulaong, who had occupied the post since 2001. "I have never accused her of unwilling even a single instance that of ignoring bidding procedures matter."

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Erap gets 2-wk trial respite

By Nervan Serdeñas

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has postponed two scheduled hearings in former President Joseph Estrada's trial, giving the deposed leader two weeks to prepare for the last part of his direct testimony and get ready for cross-examination by state prosecutors eager to nail him on plunder and perjury charges.

The court called off hearings scheduled for Wednesday and May 17 because two of its three judges—Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro and Associate Justice Diosdado Peralta—will be in Cebu City from May 10 to May 17 for regular sessions of lower courts of the anticorruption court's First Division.

De Castro, Peralta and Associate Justice Francisco Villaruz comprise the Sandiganbayan's Special Division trying Estrada. De Castro and Peralta are concurrent members of the First Division.

Aside from the justice's hearings in Cebu, Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio is also scheduled to attend a lawyer's conference abroad this week.

ESTRADA

One of Estrada's lawyers, Jose Flaminiano, welcomed the postponement, saying the former President could use a little more rest following his recent confinement for vomiting and diarrhea at the San Juan Medical Center. Estrada was allowed to attend the 101st birthday celebration of his mother, Mary Ejercito, and was taken ill at the party.

Flaminiano said he would try to finish his direct examination of Estrada when the trial resumes on May 24.

"We will try our best to finish the direct examination of President Estrada then so that in the succeeding hearing we would be ready for his cross-examination by the prosecution," he said.

On the other hand, Villa-Ignacio said the prosecution panel still had to decide whether to cross-examine Estrada or not.

"We will see if there is still a need to cross-examine because all he has told the court was that he didn't know anything about the alleged [ones against him," Villa-Ignacio told reporters following the cancellation of last Friday's hearing.

Last week's scheduled hearing was moved from Wednesday to Friday in light of the birthday party, but that hearing was eventually cancelled after Estrada took sick.

Jinggoy replies to libel suit filed by First Gentleman

By Jocelyn R. Uy

READ ALSO: JUST DOING HER JOB

This was what Sen. Jinggoy Estrada said in reply to the P10-million libel suit slapped on him by First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo in March for linking the President's husband to big-time smuggling.

Estrada, accompanied by lawyers Raul Mañaya and Macpanlia Reimen, filed a nine-page counter-affidavit with assistant prosecutor Manuel Dayao of Pasay City at 3 p.m. Friday. The document asked for the dismissal of the suit, saying it had no basis and failed to establish that a crime had been committed against Arroyo.

"It is plain and purely a political harassment," Estrada told reporters.

Estrada said his statements linking Arroyo to rumor-mongerer Jimmy Lee and Pure Gold Duty Free Shop owner Lucio Co, both alleged, ly notorious smugglers, were made in the performance of his legal, moral and social duties and were made without any malice.

The allegedly libelous statements were made by Estrada during a privilege speech as well as in a news conference.

"It is clear that my statements were simply an expression of hope, coupled with a challenge to the executive branch of the government to swiftly and effectively act on the proliferation of smuggling despite the recurring difficulties," he stated in his counter-affidavit.

He said the allegedly libelous statements attributed to him were based on privilege speeches made by other senators during their deliberations on the 2006 budget and anti-smuggling bills.

"My statements were nothing but a fair and true account of what transpired during the session and deliberations," he said. His statements were logical conclusions drawn from "credible sources" and speeches by his colleagues, he added.

He told reporters that the libel charge against him wasn't stopping him from doing his duty as a senator.

"I will still do my responsibilities as a senator of the republic. I will oppose all the countless anomalies under the present government," he said.

Arroyo's lawyers, Melanie Trinidad, who was also present at the prosecutor's office, said she would file a reply to Estrada's counter-affidavit on May 23.

ASPIRIN
COR-30
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ASPIRIN
COR-30

F. Villaroman, broker; 64

VETERAN BROKER STOCKHOLDER Francisco "Frandy" Villaroman, 64, died on Wednesday due to heart failure.

Villaroman, their and president of Securities Specialists Inc., was known as the father of computerization at the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) where in 1993 he helped transform the old Makati and Manila bourses from manual to automated trading.

He was one of the pioneers of the old Makati Stock Exchange in the 1970s.

As the forebear of information technology reforms, Villaroman helped map out the PSE's settlement and clearing system and post-computer system in place.

"Frandy had no agenda and he genuinely loved the PSE. So was a good man," said Makati broker and close friend Mohan Yuchengco.

Villaroman's remains lie at the Loyola Memorial Chapel in Guadalupe, Makati City. A funeral Mass is scheduled on May 10 at 2 p.m. at the chapel. Cremation will follow at 4:30 p.m.

Villaroman was a PSE director since March 2006. He was chair and president of Philippine Holding Inc., PR Cardo Corporation and PH Commercial Corp. He was also a director of the Philippine Association of Securities Brokers and Dealers Inc. and a member of the PSE legislative committee, where he contributed to proposals on the Securities Regulation Code, supplementary margin-on-line proxies and early retirement act, and other laws.

He was the PSE's corporate secretary in 2002-03 when he helped finalize details on the deed of donation for the PSE's new headquarters at Fort Bonifacio. He also anchored the board of director's role/look. —Elizabeth L. Sanchez

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2 DAYS AUCTION

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Fidel Castro among world's richest rulers; Saudi is No. 1

Paragraph #1
al tally of Kings, Queens & Dictators" tomorrow on Thursday.

Kings and deckles of the oil-rich Gulf Arab states will top the Forbes list, to be published in its May 22 edition.

The list is topped by Saudi King Abdullah, 82, who became Saudi Arabia's ninth king in August 2005 and is worth an estimated $21 billion, according to Forbes.

In second place, with $18 billion, is 59-year-old Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei, followed by the president of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahayan, 58, with $15 billion.

Dubai's ruler, 56-year-old Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, came in fourth, with $14 billion. Perhaps the most flamboyant of the leaders, Forbes surmises the restaurant-and-boom-to-bust real-estate investor also helped raise Dubai's gross domestic product from about $8 billion to nearly $40 billion since 1995 by diversifying its industries outside of oil and making successful investments overseas.

CASTRO

He would probably be the daredevil of the bunch," said Lena Kroll, associate editor at Forbes.

Also in the list is Prince Hans-Adam II of Liechtenstein, 61, who improved upon his family's historic of palaces, real estate and artwork with an investment in a US producer of hybrid cars, for total estimated riches of $4 billion.

The new Hemingway cube, debut, 08, who ends over rule of the tiny principality after his father's death last year, was in sixth place, with $3 billion.

Castro came in seventh, with the $900 million credited to him by Forbes, which cited former Cuban officials as saying that Castro had skimmed profits from a Havana convention center, real conglomerate Gaviota and vaccine and pharmaceutical products firm Medicuba to amass his fortune.

It noted, however, that "Castro, for the record, claims nothing in his personal net worth is zero."

Castro had said he was considering ruling after Forbes released in 2005 list, scoffing then at the report that his wealth was real. stated to be close to that of the British monarch.

"Do they think I am (former Cuban President) Batista (Jose

KING ABDULLAH

SULTAN BOLKIAH

linked to one of the many millionaires, those thieves and plunderers that the empire has suckled and protected?" he said last year, referring to his nightclub as elsewhere in Washington.

Mikati's brother Diming Nguyen Albaugh, 53-year-old president of Equatorial Guinea, made the list of wealthiest leaders for the first time. He is estimated to hold up to $600 million, the magazine said, although no oil books has not prevented his country's slide down the United Nations' development rankings.

Forbes said Obiang and his government depended up on $700 million in the US bank for needy famous as Riggs Bank has noted that "hypocrisy becomes embassy names the money, which was released back in the country, belongs to the government."

Nate floating that money to threaten Obiang's personal wealth is like saying a person who runs a hospital is worth the amount of revenue the hospital generates," an embassy spokesperson told Forbes in an e-mail.

Obiang is influenced by Britain's 80-year-old queen, Elizabeth, who is worth $500 million—not including Buckingham Palace, the crown jewels and some other heirlooms that "belong to the British nation" and are merely "in trust to her care."

Rounding out the list is the Netherlands' Queen Beatrix, 68, who has $270 million to her name.

A copy of the list, compiled by Forbes writers and not vouchsafed by the royals themselves, was released on Thursday.

Forbes acknowledged that the list was difficult to compile.

"These fortunes are derived from inheritances or positions of power, and the lines often blur between what is owned by the country and what is owned by the individual," it said.

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"These fortunes are derived from inheritances or positions of power, and the lines often blur between what is owned by the country and what is owned by the individual," it said.

"People are always intrigued. What is the ultimate fantasy for being a rich person or princess?" said Kroll, who edits Forbes' biennial list of global billionaires.

"We keep it separate from the billionaires because there are some very wishy-washy things about India," Kroll said.

"It's very hard to separate state from personal wealth. Some of these fortunes literally go back 800 years."

Reuters, AFP

Batasan 5's . . .

Paragraph #1

the group, Drumgo said he and his colleagues had "come to a decision" to leave the Batasan premises tomorrow.

"We shall assert our freedom and our rights, both as legislators backed by the mandate of the people and as citizens, as affected by against the political persecution of the arroyo government," Drumgo said.

"At the same breath, we assert our transformer of the spurious charge of rebellion against us and some of our colleagues in the democratic mass movement. The serious charge is rendered so incredible and ridiculous by the use of documentary evidence produced poll-mail by the Philippine National Police and released by the (DOJ)," he said.

Bautista said the PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group could not arrest them just because the DOJ had said so.

"The so-called standing order from the (DOJ) is not a valid source of arrest. It would be unlawful, irregular and highly condemnable if the PNP-CIDG will arrest as once we assert our rights and freedom [to] exercise," he said.

He also said it would be "politically costly for the Macapagal-Arroyo regime to forcefully and brutally arrest us.

"Ms Arroyo will surely dress a major political backlash not only from our constituencies but [also] from the Filipino people," he added.

'Insufficient evidence'

Citing Judge Debarista's conclusion, Drumgo noted that the "numerous endorsements to the original information [—] documents in all—'would hardly cover the width and breadth of the detailed allegations raised.'"

"In brief, insufficient evidence," he said, adding:

"Thus, as of this moment there is no case of rebellion against us filed in any court.

"Even if the DOJ will file a motion for reconsideration or a new information, as it publicly declared it would do, such charge cannot depart from the discredited basis that it had already told to the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 137."

Drumgo said he and his colleagues had endorsed being to Congress for more than two months after the House leadership and the executive branch failed to agree on how to resolve their case.

"On the one hand, through House Resolution No. 1321, the House forbade by the Senate through a similar resolution expressing the sense of Congress, the lawmaking body, now we are not under arrest or detention but under protective custody specifically, against illegal or warrantless arrest.

"On the other hand, the DOJ and the PNP both implementing agencies of latter passed by Congress, claim we either have been arrested and are in detention or will be arrested once we step out of the premises of the Batasan."

'We are free to leave'

Drumgo expressed hope that all the other lawmakers in the House and the Senate would heed their stand that "we, the Senators, are free to leave the Batasan premises" and that Bolante, who is detained at Camp Crame, should be released.

He said the stand-off between the executive branch and Congress over their case "only exposes the highly undemocratic and antidemocratic tendency, if not the essential character," of the Arroyo administration.

"Today this government, we have to assert and bitterly fight for our rights and freedom in order to exercise and enjoy them, no matter that—or precisely because—the assertion of our rights and freedoms is met by the government with the most vicious attacks and attempted violence," Drumgo said.

"We owe it to our people to assert these rights and freedoms that are inalienably theirs, too. If the government applies brutal force, as it is wont to do, against our actions [tomorrow], we will confront it with militant and dignified defiance," he said, adding:

"By our action tomorrow, we will also give the DOJ and the PNP and, yes, Malacañang the choice to use the folly of their ways."

The Batasan 5 had taken refuge at the Senate since Feb. 27, after the DOJ linked them to the alleged Left-Right plot to overthrow Ms Arroyo.

Rule of law

In Helsinki, Finland, where he was one of the speakers at a conference on climate change, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. expressed support for the five militant lawmakers.

"Law enforcers are well-advised that we are operating under the rule of law. If they arrest the Batasan 5 despite Judge Debarista's [resolution] ... then should be cited for contempt and charged with illegal arrest," the senator said in a text message.

Pimentel also criticized the DOJ for including Honasan in the case that Debarista had dismissed.

"I think the DOJ is exhibiting its hullaballooism in harassing people in order to deflect the issues on the fundamental wrongdoing of Gloria [Ms Arroyo]," he said in a phone call.

The Senator earlier reported that the fugitive Honasan, leader of the failed coup attempts against the Aquino administration in the 1980s and a prime destabilization suspect of the Arroyo administration, had gotten in touch with Pimentel to seek his help regarding the DOJ case against him.

Pimentel said he received four text messages from Honasan the other week requesting assistance so that he would get "fair treatment" once he surfaced.

Honasan wanted to be sure that his rights would not be violated, the senator said.

The government has put up a P4-million reward for information leading to the capture of Honasan.

No surrender broken

Pimentel said he was willing to extend legal aid to Honasan, particularly to ensure that the latter would get due process and that his rights as an accused would be protected.

He said Honasan's lawyers had boosted Honasan's decision to accept a headliner of an Inquirer report, which said Honasan had not surrender broken.

"We did not send surrender broker," Pimentel quoted the lawyer as saying.

He said the lawyer also told him: "We will appreciate your continued support because apparently the DOJ does not recognize [Honasan's] rights."

Pimentel, however, said he was not making an extra effort to help Honasan.

"I might not be too wise to move with him because I might put him in jeopardy. If I arrange for a meeting with him, that could lead to his arrest," Pimentel said.

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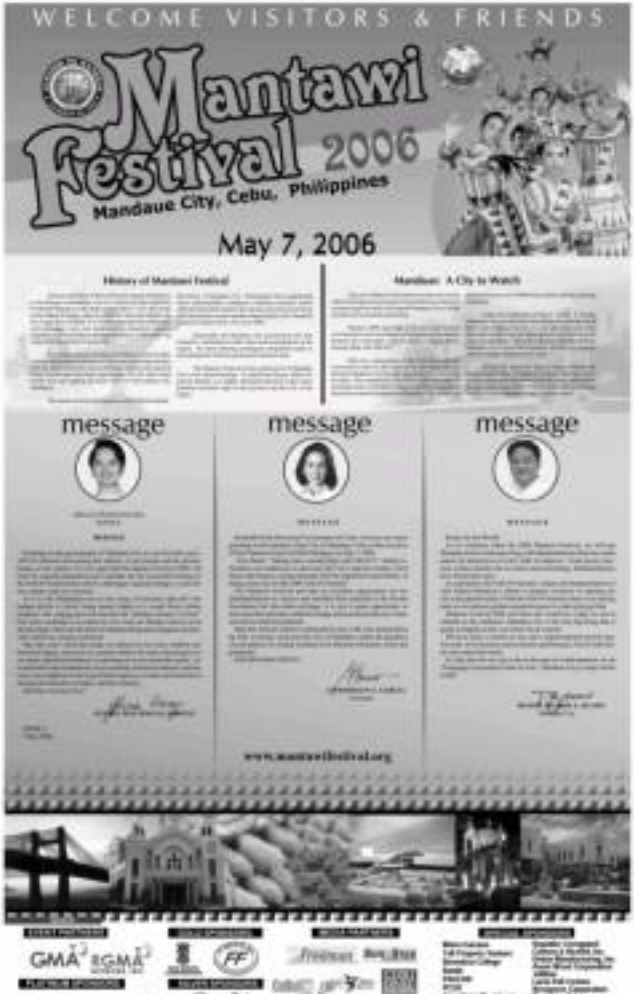

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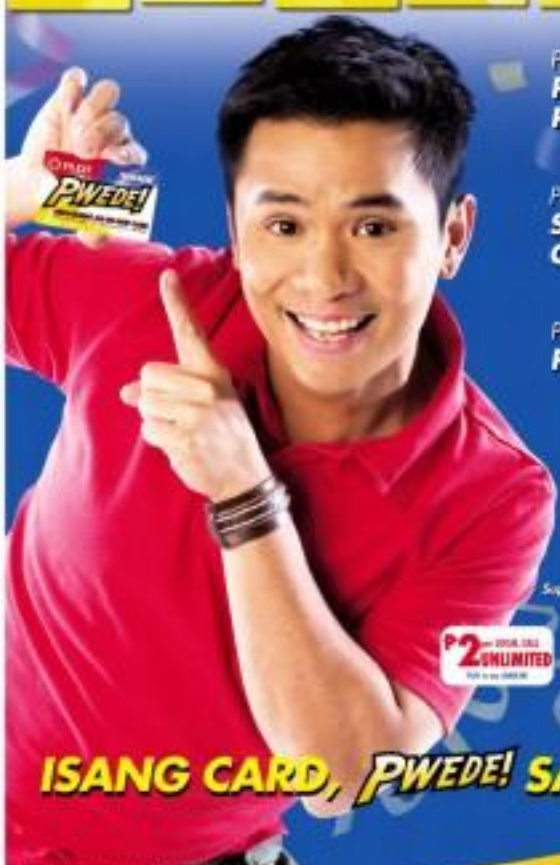

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'Erap showed me his copy'–Gonzales

LIP AND LIMIT. President Macapagal-Arroyo wants to curb ministers from the Luzon that was to take her to Macau yesterday to attend the wedding of Speaker Jose de Venecia's step daughter Carina Cruz before heading on to Saudi Arabia.

By Cynthia D. Balana

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER NORBERTO Gonzales yesterday said the administration was aware that former President Joseph Estrada had received information described in a US court as classified, and that the ousted leader even showed him some of the documents.

Gonzales claimed that Estrada was aware that the documents were official and classified but might not have known that their unauthorized use was punishable under US laws.

Speaking in a radio interview, Gonzales recalled that Estrada showed him some of the US documents that Gonzales said he now believed had come from Filipino-American intelligence analyst Leandro Aragoncillo.

"That's true because when I visited him, he let me read documents from the Embassy of the United States," Gonzales said in Filipino.

"What I recall is that they appeared like analyses. What they (the Americans) were saying was that it appeared that there was a relationship between the opposition and the government. The opposition couldn't bring down the government and the government was having difficulty because the opposition was too noisy."

Meeting of friends

Asked why Estrada allowed him to read the documents, Gonzales said the former President was his friend and they would exchange views on certain issues.

Also, Estrada might have been trying to show the various of his sources, having been President, he said.

Gonzales said that, at first, he had no idea that the documents could have been coming from Aragoncillo.

Truth is coming out

He said the documents shown by Estrada did not have any accompanying cover, which is usually marked "top secret" or "classified."

He said the documents contained analyses, probably made by US representatives in the Philippines, of the political situation obtaining in the country.

Gonzales said his office investigated the Aragoncillo case and the alleged plot to overthrow the Arroyo administration and concluded that these were related and that Estrada was involved.

"It is good that the truth is coming out," Gonzales said. "Insofar as what is coming out of the Aragoncillo case is concerned, we don't need to be told that President Erap is among those who came to remove President Gloria."

All witnesses strong

"The Aragoncillo case is a bit serious," Gonzales said. "Regardless of the level of the information that is coming from America, especially if that is official information, if we see that, there we have that third child, especially in America."

Asked if the classified information meant the United States was actively spying on the Philippines, Gonzales said there was nothing wrong with embassies doing analyses on their host countries.

"That's the work of all embassies in the Philippines," he said. "That is also the work of our embassies in foreign countries. It is important for us to understand what is happening in countries friendly to us and in countries hostile to us."

'Let's go easy on Erap'

From page A1

charges could be filed against Estrada and the others.

Barbers noted that while Aragoncillo was prosecuted largely for compromising US national security, it had to be established whether the classified documents he passed on to Mr. Arroyo's enemies damaged a democratic regime.

Navigation of Aragoncillo's e-mails and his messages, such as emails, Lacson and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, have maintained that the materials they received did not contain confidential information.

Lacson shared Barbers's sobering view.

US documents not needed

"We can file rebellion charges but we don't have to base [them] on the documents Aragoncillo leaked from the FBI," Enrile said. "We already have a lot of documents here (show) their plans. That will be our basis and not documents from other countries. We will act independently on everybody's cases depending on available evidence."

Barbares said that Aragoncillo's admission did not mean the government had a solid case against anti-Arroyo politicians.

"Aragoncillo may have pleaded guilty but that does not necessarily mean that his plea of guilt will bind others implicated in the case. It all depends on what crimes they will be charged with," Barbers said.

Not binding

After charged in the US espionage case was former police superintendent and Lacson protege Michael Rey Aquino, who was arrested last September.

Aquino, the alleged bridge between Aragoncillo and Mr. Arroyo's political rivals, pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiracy and acting as an unregistered foreign agent.

"Even those who are accused with Aragoncillo cannot be bound by his confession," Barbers said. "But because one confessed to a group's crimes does not necessarily mean that all of the members are guilty."

'Estrada on the ropes'

Barbers said his greatest stand on the issue was not caused by the rebuke the administration suffered at the hands of the Supreme Court on the issues involving Executive Order No. 464, the subsequent presidential executive policy and Proclamation No. 1017 declaring a state of national emergency.

But Gonzales saw matters differently.

In a telephone interview, the secretary said the Department of Justice was already working with foreign affairs officials to secure copies of the transcripts of Aragoncillo's testimony for possible use in a Philippine court.

"In boxing, when the boxer is groggy, he leans on the ropes. If this is boxing, [Estrada] is now leaning on the ropes," Gonzales said, speaking from Iloilo.

"They look damaging to me," Gonzales said of Aragoncillo's statements. "So we are quite clear that there was really a conspiracy among them."

The link is showing

Asked if Aragoncillo's admission could be used as evidence against Estrada and the others in the filing of rebellion charges, Gonzales answered in the affirmative.

"Based on the statements done so, they are quite serious and the linkage is beginning to show," he said.

Asked if Aragoncillo's testimony would strengthen the administration case, Gonzales said: "Yes ... with all of them and several people involved in the [Estrada] situation."

"We can use that as evidence, but they remain hearsay at this point ... That's why we must get hold of the entire transcripts. I asked our consulate there to secure the transcripts because these are all public documents."

'Don't blame me'

"They are facing something serious which is of their own making," Gonzales said. "So they have no one but to blame. They cannot blame us."

Aragoncillo is currently on trial for plunder before the Sandiganbayan.

Gonzales said statements made under oath in foreign courts were admissible here as long as they were authenticated.

"I become admissible in court if you have the transcripts of the proceedings where the admission or confession was made and we can get an authenticated copy. You can introduce that as evidence," he said.

But he admitted that kind of evidence "is not as impeccable as somebody testifying in front of you."

Admissible in RP

According to Gonzales, courts all over the world are now even allowing "trial by video."

"In this part of the year, they are charged with conspiracy involving public officials in this country. So basically, if the trial is in the US, the evidence is adduced there. So that is admissible as long as the transcript was authenticated. So the admission made there, which was definitely made under oath in an American court, has value here," he said.

Hold your horses

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. volunteered some advice to the administration: hold your horses.

Reacting to Gonzales's earlier statement that the administration could file rebellion charges against Estrada and the others, Pimentel said: "I doubt it very much because you have to show that Estrada and Ping Lacson are engaged in a plot to overthrow Gloria."

"The sending of information is one thing and advocating the overthrow of the government is another. The removing information is useless if it," said Pimentel, a lawyer.

Not feel

"The mere act of sending the information and of Erap or Ping receiving it does not automatically translate into a violation of Philippine laws. Maliwanag po yan sa Ateneo (That is still a long way from the gate)," Pimentel told the Inquirer in a phone call from Helsinki, Finland, where he spoke on a forum on global warming and climate change.

"That is just in the mind of Raul Gonzalez," Pimentel added.

Pimentel was to rendezvous today with Lacson, as well as Senate President Franklin Drilon, Sen. Richard Gordon and other senators en route to Kenya for the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Lacson could not be contacted because he was en route to the US meeting.

Proof of conspiracy

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the Aragoncillo case "speaks for itself."

"It proves beyond doubt that [the] conspiracy to oust the President ... include[s] prominent public officials who have caused embarrassment in the country by their actions," he said. With a report from Julie Lalog-Aredina

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AT THE MUSEUM (above), a man walks past a huge photograph of the patients and their American doctors at the sanitarium. Former patients (right) received the emotional healing in 1906 of the first batch of persons afflicted with leprosy. PHOTOS BY RAMON DIZON

SPOTLIGHT streams through a hospital room. Contrary to belief, it takes only a year to treat the most severe cases of leprosy.

Culion: Island of living dead no longer

Pero page A1

on my arms."

At first, she said, "they would ask whether the cases were inborn or a result of leprosy."

"I can't lie about the scars, so I tell the interviewers everything," she recalled. "Then there would be a long pause, as though they were thinking hard. And then they tell me we just wait for their call."

She call ever came.

'Happiest thing'

Late last year, six Australian evangelical pastors whom Chris first met at the sanitarium heard about her situation—and offered her a job.

Chris has since been reporting to work three days a week as a secretary at the Mamona Christian Centre, which pays her P220 a day.

"That's the happiest thing that happened in my life. But it's also sad to realize that foreigners were more educated about the cause of leprosy than Filipinos," she said.

Chris' story captured the throes of yesterday's celebration at Culion: Winning the battle against the "social stigma" associated to leprosy despite the fact that it's curable, low-contagion disease.

It takes only a year of medication to treat the most severe cases of leprosy.

Seven days after cure has been proclaimed, "it's no longer contagious," explained Joy Pontemilla, a PLM program manager who accompanied Chris to Culion.

Triumph of love

Reunited through some of its 189-year history in the "Island of the Living Dead" or "The Island of No Return," Culion was as proudly dressed as any other Filipino town caught up in a fiesta frenzy.

Today, Culion is leprosy-free but its sanitarium and general hospital are still taking care of around 170 "custodial patients" who have been cured of leprosy but are either disabled or too old to go anywhere else. The core of a modest community of medical readers has literally energized its painful past to a museum and has chosen to celebrate the triumph of love and compassion.

The museum and archives on Culion's first few decades as a leprosarium were unveiled, with elaborate ceremonies representing a major Japanese sponsor—the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation—among the honored guests.

Flags and bunting adorned the streets and beach front. Public buildings were awash in fresh coats of paint, and even a "tourism committee" armed with leaflets and a local story or two was on hand to assist members of the media.

Some of the former patients, who reportedly make up 70 to 80 percent of the current population of 20,000, staged a theatrical reenactment of the May 27, 1906, landing of the first batch of people afflicted with the disease.

(The ceremonial celebrations were held earlier to avoid inclement weather, organizers said.)

The jubilees marked the ceremonial arrival of Culion's first 368 patients, mostly from the Visayas, on board the Cebu-bound steamship Corregidor.

A year later, in 1907, the Sugerganon Law on Leprosy was enacted by the American colonial government.

The law made it mandatory for leprosy patients to be rounded up, isolated, and shipped to Culion.

Transformation

Dr. Art Cassanova, a Department of Health official who heads the Culion Leprosy Control and Rehabilitation Program, said the centennial, while replete with nostalgia over all the leprosy pioneers stored here, would rather focus on the island's "transformation."

From being a declared leper colony for about 75 years, Culion became a municipality in 1992.

In 1998, the DOH declared that leprosy was no longer a public health concern on the island.

PRESENT DAY scene: A man and his cat mark the passage of time. Fewer than 200 patients are still at the hospital as "custodial patients"—cured but with nowhere to go or suffering from other ailments.

Ireland lets spouses of OFWs work

By Jerome Aning

Ireland will allow some 2,000 Filipino spouses of overseas Filipino workers employed in that country, according to Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas.

The new Irish immigration policy would reunite many Filipino families in Ireland, Sto. Tomas said yesterday.

Prior to the new arrangement, spouses of OFWs in Ireland—mostly husbands of Filipino nurses and caregivers—could not work in Ireland. This discouraged the OFWs from bringing their spouses and children there.

The new regulations followed weeks of negotiations between Philippine Embassy officials in London and Irish officials.

The Philippine Embassy in London, which has jurisdiction over Ireland, initiated the talks during a consular outreach program in Dublin, the Irish capital, last March.

Ireland would also allow some 2,000 Filipino caregivers to undergo hospital training to nurses, Sto. Tomas said.

The Irish government came up a new procedure where foreign health care workers, particularly caregivers, if found qualified by the Irish Nursing Board, would be allowed to undergo an adaptation program for nursing in a training hospital.

Sto. Tomas said the new scheme would benefit about 2,000 Filipino caregivers in Irish nursing homes who had been classified as under-board nurses in Ireland.

The labor secretary said the new Irish immigration and employment policies were facilitated by the efforts of the Philippine Embassy in London to promote the welfare of OFWs and their families in Ireland.

She likewise conveyed gratitude to the Irish government for extending employment opportunities to OFWs.

"We in the labor department express our deep appreciation of the Irish government and the Filipino officials in London for their active involvement in promoting and safeguarding the rights and welfare of the OFWs in Ireland," Sto. Tomas said in a statement.

Last rites for late Unilab chief set

The remains of Jose Yao Campos, founder and chair emeritus of United Laboratories Inc. (Unilab), the Unilab Group of Companies and Greenfield Group of Companies, will be viewed at 6 p.m. today at Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati City. He passed away on May 1 at the age of 84.

He is survived by his wife Beatrice; children Joy, Butch and Cilla, Jeffrey and Elizabeth, and grandchildren Clinton and Jacqueline, Cheung, Hilary, Jeanette, Jaclyn and Luke, Jay, Jennifer, Jason and Olivia.

After the end of World War II in 1945, Campos opened a small drugstore in war-ravaged Manila with the avowed aim of providing "quality medicines at prices within reach of as many people as possible in the community." According to Unilab, Campos thought it would have been "unreasonable and unjust to sell medicines at prices determined by pure business objectives alone, to sell people whose livelihood had been lost in the war."

The drugstore quickly developed into a pharmaceutical company. In the late 1950s, despite having economized with small-dosage corporations, Unilab became one of the top pharmaceutical companies in the country. It has retained its competitive position up to now.

In 2005, Unilab was the 35th top corporation in the Philippines, according to the Investment and Exchange Commission. The following year, it ranked 37th with sales of more than P17 billion.

Unilab has extended its reach outside the Philippines. It is a provider of health care products in Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Vietnam.

While Campos devoted considerable attention to Unilab, he also invested in other industries like processed food, home fumigation and real estate. PDI Research

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Your views on issues and events

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Pigs in Canada

APHARYNTIC PIGS IN CANADA DINE WITH SPOON and fork. That, at least, is what the principal of a school in Montreal seems to suggest, after describing the "table behavior" of a 7-year-old Filipino boy newly immigrated to Canada in the following echoistorical terms: "If your son eats like a pig, he has to go to another table because this is the way we do it and how we're going to do it every time."

EDITORIALS That, word for word, is what the principal of Ecole Lalande, identified by a Montreal newspaper as Normand Bergeron, told the boy's mother over the phone, after she called to complain.

The object of her complaint was the repeated direction by her son's "harsh exercise" to punish the boy for eating with a spoon and fork. According to the newspaper report, which named the boy and his mother and even carried their photograph, the supervising teacher ordered the boy "waive (sic) 10 times this year" to eat at a table by himself, whenever he ate with a spoon and fork, instead of with a fork alone.

Mariam came to a head when the boy finally told his mother on April 11: "Mommy, I don't want to eat anymore. My teacher is telling me that eating with a spoon and fork is yucky and disgusting."

When the mother complained to the principal, Bergeron defended the teacher's decision and then of course subordinated himself of that cliche, chauvinist-leaning zinger. "You've no eats like a pig." (What is education, after all, but character formation?) The mother also quoted Bergeron as saying, "Madame, you are in Canada. Here in Canada, you should eat the way Canadians eat."

The principal has a point, of course, about the need to adapt to the requirements of a larger culture, but he misses the larger point: Canada is celebrated for its multicultural diversity, its hospitality to various cultures. Ostracizing a 7-year-old for his eating habits—shared by countless Filipino families—runs counter to Canada's own heritage.

Bergeron's assininly crudiest is based on assumptions about cultures and immigration, that can only be described as racist.

We are glad to note that the Philippine Embassy in Canada has supported the boy's mother in her complaint filed with the local school board. "The embassy considers this an affront to Philippine culture and continues to vigorously support any action that will validate a conclusion of racial discrimination," Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Gilbert Asuque said the other day.

We are even more glad that a Canadian non-government organization dedicated to helping victims of discrimination, the Centre for Research Action on Race Relations, has also filed a formal complaint, seeking moral damages from the lunch monitor. That, we believe, is in keeping with the best Canadian tradition of putting your money where your mouth is.

Angels of Pinatubo

A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS HAS SPENT THE LAST several years doing humanitarian work involving the Aetas of Mt. Pinatubo. "We work from the shadows," the self-effacing Jennifer Wallum told the other day, by way of explaining what the Entrepreneurs Missionaries Assistance Charity Foundation has done and continues to do.

The group sources donations from the country and from around the world, as well as engages in what is called social marketing. (In essence, selling bags with silk-screened Pinatubo motifs), in order to help Aeta communities. In particular, the group has helped fund Traditional Tribal Origins Ethnic Education Schools (cheerfully called Totes), which allow Aetas to learn in educational settings that integrate traditional Aeta beliefs and knowledge.

"We are merely seen in the communities," Wallum said. "If we are always appearing there, it is disruptive to the culture."

The number of Totes has grown over the years, a clear sign of both the volunteers' determination and the tenacity of the Aeta people. Today, there are eight in Bataan, four in Pampanga, 12 in Tarlac and six in Zambales.

"Although they want to conserve their culture," Wallum said, "at the same time (their openness to learning) means that they can learn more knowledge so that they can survive better in the new world."

Hope is one song, one foothold, at a time.

Summa cum laude

SEPARATE OPINION

Dagohoy A. Cruz

SUMMA CUM LAUDE FOR THE SUPREME Court for its splendid decision striking down Presidential Proclamation 1017. It was an all-heaven measure that deserved the religious feast of the highest tribunal as the cornerstone of the government. The Court has proved to be the bastion of the rule of law that Mr. Arroyo had callously violated. The justices have shown beyond preadventure that they are the ultimate protectors of the Constitution that those in power are wont to ignore and trivialize.

I have not yet read the decision in full but I am thrilled enough by the reports in the business of the unanimous rulings of the landmark case. The proclamation was roundly rejected as an open and blatant defiance of the paramount law as the guardian of the rights of the people in the democratic society. The Supreme Court has asserted the nation, in language that cannot be misunderstood even by those who are prone to blind at those who will not see that Proclamation No. 1017 was at one tyranny.

The proviso is a fitting reprimand for President Macapagal-Arroyo who, as the chief enforcer of the law, has been exposed to be in deaf rebuke. The justices may not have said so directly out of respect for her exalted office, but their reasoning was pungently clear: to invoke and enforce the challenged proclamation, she had willfully violated the bill of rights and the tenets of republican government. She had attempted but failed, thanks to a vigilant Supreme Court, to impose another dictatorship on this country.

I must confess—and I do so joyously now—that I had apprehension about how the Supreme Court would decide the controversial case. Like many other citizens, I was worried that the justices, who had all but (save Iloilo appointed by President Arroyo, might be swayed by some way or both in ruling for her and not against the proclamation. I thank God that I was mistaken. It smells the least that a clear majority of the Court, following those hallowed of the law and the holdings of their conscience, voted to declare Proclamation No. 1017 unconstitutional.

One history would not have been seriously blemished during the time of President Marcos if the Supreme Court then had summoned the courage to stop him when he declared martial law in 1972 and started to impose eventual despotism with his monstrous usurpation of power (until public funds). This is second-guessing now, but I like to think that the decision would have been supported by the majority opinion but that showed the courage established by the members of the present Supreme Court.

The SONA is full of the shameful ruses enlisting the sensorship of the justices of the Supreme Court in justifying every act of Mr. Arroyo that unquestionably emerge in the minds of his Maoists on the highest tribunal's understanding of the Constitution and the liberties of the people. The Commission of 1971 was stalled like whatsoever milestone suspected resistance at the regime were picked up and murdered, private properties were confiscated for private gain, civil liberties were violated, Congress against was emasculated. Congress was replaced with a rubber-stamp Batasang Pambansa, and Amendment No. 6 produced the desired from rightful accountability and arbitration. All those and more were "legitimized" by a cowed and servile Supreme Court that refused to Dr Medard disputes in the annals of our judiciary.

Not so the present Supreme Court. This is the tribunal that only recently scuffled Executive Order No. 464 for impinging on the inherent and express power of Congress to conduct inquiries in aid of legislation, ruled against government ministers against lawful dean of speech and the right of peaceful assembly and last Wednesday declared another would-be dictator by cancelling her Proclamation No. 1017 as an obvious attempt to place the Philippines under a new but no less ci cious despotism.

I like to think grandly of the Supreme Court justices now as like the great Lord Lobo of Virginia Woolf, in answer to the intimidations and importunings of his mistress, intoned the cing words that have since become the excess of all just courts: "I will do what becomes me as a judge."

I have been critical of it on many occasions, but now I sincerely and proudly say: "Allusion to the Supreme Court of the Philippines!" The judicial robes become the justices like habili. bustes of courage and wisdom.

Good shepherds!?

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A CHILD POET asked his father, "Dad, is it true that in China, a man does not know his wife until the day he marries her?"

"That is true in every country, son," the father replied with a sigh.

* * *

In today's Gospel, the Lord calls Himself the Good Shepherd who not only knows His sheep, but also lays down His life for His sheep. Let us ask ourselves in using what sort of shepherds we are. Are we shepherds who have real concern for our sheep, or, are we shepherds who just look for pay?

* * *

How consoling to know that the Lord knows and is concerned about each one of us. In this world of materialism and consumerism, how saddening to know that we are not just a number or a disposable commodity. People who tend to mislead, manipulate, manipulate, use and abuse other people for their personal agenda need to listen and learn from the Good Shepherd, for whom every person is worth "stopping" and dying for.

* * *

Last May 2, I said a Mass for children who have eaten cancer. "Three Kids" we call them, who at an early and tender age have to go through chemotherapy and all the pain, discomforts and loneliness that accompany cancer. I would like to salute Paul and Sigrid Perez, and many other parents of cancer victims children who stay with their sheep and continue to pray, hope and grow with their children. They are brave parents, good shepherds. Most touching was when the kids let go of their white ballroom with a sincere wish and prayer for healing—and for several lives without much anguish and pain.

* * *

Four Divine Word Missionaries (DVD) were killed when American planes bombed the town of Rangued, Abra on March 18, 1945. Fr. Theo Tondorf, Father Ludovico Willart, Pablo Franken and Bruno Reinen had opted to stay with their flock who took shelter at the Rangued Cathedral. They helped the wounded and led them in prayer till the end. We remember them in gratitude, and the many countless good shepherds we have met in life. A lot try from the many many people today who claim to be shepherds, but who in reality are wolves out to devour the sheep.

* * *

An eyewitness to the March 10, 1945 bombing of Rangued, Abra was former Pangasinan Gov. Rafael Ciriet who was then 9 years old. He related how the whole town was in disarray after the bombing ended. From the fields, he rushed to their home and, in return, looked and dug into the debris, hoping to find his mother. Hours later, he was reunited with his mother, and what a reunion it was. The reason I am mentioning this is to remind parents to never, never underestimate their precious presence in their children's lives. For that matter, all people who have left churches or responsibilities must never take for granted or take lightly the importance of their role as shepherds.

* * *

Today, Good Shepherd Sunday, may we also remind those in the government, military and police that as shepherds, they are supposed to protect and not pounce on the fruits ones of our society. They have been given the power precisely to serve the people, not to abuse or deprive them. Time will tell and time will surely reveal who the servants of the people really are. Time will also tell who of our so-called public servants are real public servants. So, truth, no matter how people hide it, will surely come out in the end.

* * *

We would like to thank all those who helped in the "Dinner for a Cause"—held last April 8, 2006 to help restore the candle at Christ the King Seminary—whose we, priests, served as waiters. No big deal really because by virtue of our ordination, we are called to be servers, waiters and servants, not only in words, but especially in deeds.

* * *

Don't forget, May 14 is Mother's Day. Let us remember, in a special way, all mothers who are natural shepherds, gifted by God with a heart that knows how to give and how to sacrifice. So, a mother's heart is that which is nearest to God's heart. God bless and reward all mothers!

* * *

The month of May is the month of Mary our Mother. We all have most powerful intercession for our families, our country and the whole world. Just as we gave her Bond of Strings every afternoon of this month when our were children, may we continue to give hearts to her—hearts that are open to sharing, forgiveness and love.

What is it that you can offer to your mother? What is it that she asks of you?

* * *

We take time today to remember our past one, our shepherds who have been there for us all these years. I remind this text message: "Not so eager our parents while they are still with us, while we still can see, hold and embrace them, and while they still can celebrate with us; let's lavish them with love because they labored hard for the things we enjoy now; let's talk to them now; visit them now and wait no for the time when they have no no more and we have to make our visits before their tombstones."

* * *

A comment with the Lord:

Lord, you are our Good Shepherd. Help us to be good shepherds to others, too. Amen.

The POC and Philippine basketball

REVELLE

Ramon J. Farolan

ONE MONTH AGO, THE SPORTS SECTIONS OF the major newspapers in town were full of photos of Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) officials sending formally written letters being presented by international Olympic Committee (IOC) president Jacques Rogge in Seoul, South Korea. The officials—POC president Jose Cojuangco, then vice president Akiko Thomson Ota, and executive director Steve Hontiveros—were in Seoul to attend Technical Conference for Basketball 2006 meetings presided by Australian Mario Pedrazzini, the IOC's point man on the program of initiatives aimed at lifting the country's suspension from Fiba and IOC sponsored international basketball competitions. The officials also were discussing Fiba president Bob Elphinston of Australia.

Unfortunately, behind the happy faces and initial optimism, what they got from Pedrazzini was a blunt statement telling them what the former already told Philippine basketball leaders in their area for the group to sign their Fiba Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) president to rejoin the group of basketball stakeholders and support for the men basketball body, Philippine Basketball.

Also in attendance at the meeting was Pedrazzini's assistant, Fiba Asia Secretary General Yasutaka Tanaka, who was also present at the meeting

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Jose V. Sarmiento Jr.

7 myths of terrorism

THE PHILIPPINES HAS SUFFERED FROM TERRORIST ATTACKS BY THE BANDit group Abu Sayyaf and the al-Qaida linked Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), a group seeking to create an Islamic state in Southeast Asia.

Those staged by the Abu Sayyaf include the explosion inside a ship in Manila Bay that killed 116 people on Feb. 27, 2004, and the bombing of a bus in Makati and of crowded places in General Santos and Davao City on Feb. 14, 2005 that left at least seven dead and some 150 wounded.

JI was behind the explosion on Aug. 1, 2000 at the Jakarta residence of the Philippine ambassador to Indonesia and the Rizal Day bombings in Metro Manila, also in 2000. (See JI attacks.)

Although a number of leaders of the Abu Sayyaf and JI have been captured or killed, the two groups remain a threat because they have been able to replenish their ranks. The recruits were trained in terror camps in Mindanao.

It is said that graduates of these camps rival in number the Southeast Asians who trained in Afghanistan under al Qaida. The graduates of the Mindanao camps are believed to have taken part in every JI-linked bombings since 2000, including the attack in Bali in 2002.

JI has 100 foreign militants hiding in Mindanao alone, according to the Singapore-based International Center for Political Violence and Terrorism Research. They have trained 400 to 500 fighters for new attacks.

Fighting JI, the Abu Sayyaf and similar groups will require exploding the myths of terrorism.

Threats and the way forward

By Maria A. Ressa

MY IDEAS ON TERRORISM COME FROM EXPERIENCE—I'VE LIVED in Southeast Asia for more than two decades, most of that reporting for CNN. I could not have come to these views if I hadn't been at every bombing attack, as every riot. I was there as the first attacks of the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) in Indonesia. I met many of its leaders. I lived through it. That's my foundation and the reason I became obsessed with this topic.

I would argue that if 9/11 hadn't happened, we would've come in for a far more considerable attack because the criminals which was exploited there, remain there. Both in terms of the geography and the logic. If I closed off a country—one of seven myths I want to discuss—a collective lie to the West built during the post-COLD war years. That exploded when it had been a safe haven for Osama bin Laden and the terrorist network. Now? By de-coding homegrown groups, which don't have their own roots in Pakistan, but by getting their terror global thrust.

The goal is simple: al Qaida and other global terrorist-allies, using religion as a tool. If you look at it bottom up, the groups respond to maybe their own governments, get control of their lands, set up Islamic states here, then stitch all these into together to create one giant Islamic Caliphate.

Watch the 9/11 video. Osama's former Prime Minister Hussein Mahmi Ismail, "Osama bin Laden was able to tap different people in different regions on different issues by pegging JI's role in war between Israel and the West, but in fact, he was leveraging the regional conflicts for his own agenda."

In Southeast Asia, Jemaah Islamiyah, al Qaida's regional arm, successfully infiltrated local entities, and created a network in Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

That is linked to the FIRST myth I see now in nearly every country I reported from: Sweden and mainland China are not immune either.

The implicit attitude is these are our enclaves, I mean no disrespect and with them. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations has even institutionalized that idea into something it calls "flexible engagement." All conflicts are local and can be dealt with domestically. Wrong. Because what we've seen is that when you're talking about conflicts involving Muslim issues, they are not local conflicts.

Instead, they're part of a global war. The Cold war rules of peace—with our superpowers, there is no peace coming.

Until 2002, the Philippines and the United States had a defense treaty. It stepped up for a post-Cold war scenario—until that 9/11 proved, under the rules of conflict, there was no concept of fighting together as collaborators in the modern and post-cold war. I view this concept as either security terrors and strategies of warfare.

Once that became clear, other terrorist bosses in position—realizing the "RULES" earth—that military might is not the only way to fight a war. Ideology and language ... because new language and culture have become weapons in an ideological struggle.

For the first time—members of the military and defense—academic are writing about ideology. Everybody's now is one as important as the nature of war. A July US defense Corps report states "we should investigate the spread of violent Jihadist methods to non-Muslim areas and the increasing ability of militant opponent so to long, for intelligence campaigns that target the domestic population and may will.

There is now a growing understanding that this issue just a military challenge, that there was also ideological battle, that we must denounce violence or power can distort the creed and that it's necessary to understand not just cultures and perspectives but value systems.

Working with CNN and searching momentarily in the region gave me a unique view: I was able to freely examine non-extreme very accurately and disinformed bureaucracies. Two years after 9/11, it was still difficult in some countries to get visas for journalists to go to Indonesia. My research could call, and I could get on minutes to three immediately. Some questions were simple. For example, can Filipino travel without a visa to Indonesia? Answer: Yes. Indonesian groups formed the background can be Indonesian group five months of Indonesia had ever been found. Another there, an Indonesian didn't have enough local to that cellphone to make a call in Malaysia or for called my friend number.

That reported a FOURTH myth: there were and are shared equally. That simply don't exist. Information, depending on who tells it, can inevitably be skewed in favor of the one telling the story.

The system on the ground seemed to me with information because they needed help, and so they were willing to share with their friends—which in one case because they were frustrated by the way the bureaucracies was being handled by unprepared and within their bureaucracies. Still others were [illegible]

Initially I was surprised by the level of official inaction—despite the knowledge on the ground. The result is that should terrorists escape attacks—by the United States, to Indonesia, to the Philippines. But the costs can high for decade—it reminds the people and leaves Muslims vulnerable to political ideology. This is part of the reason many Muslims still believe Osama bin Laden is innocent.

After denial, I began to see subconscious action, largely because of vested interests—like the time one Filipino official admitted that they had discovered terrorist training camps in the 1990s, but that they didn't want the United States to know so they hid the pictures. We got the idea corporate vested interest and interpret the information they get based on their vested interests. And that often clouds the judgment of the information.

There is part of the reason the United States is paying little attention to the upsurge of terrorism in Asia. Terrorism is not the only issue we think the events stem from local conditions and not global threat. The evidence in the Maluku and Indonesia in Indonesia, the southern Philippines, and perhaps southern Thailand ... all these should be cause for alarm. But it's not just the US running a blind eye. Many of our own governments refuse to see the interconnections because addressing them links issues mobilizing our security forces to a different strategy.

That's linked to the FIFTH myth. There is only one version of military. Different backgrounds and cultural biases get different solutions. The military is that issue we all feel they are not necessarily the answer.

Terrorists are not stupid. They are smart, adaptive, resourceful, intellectual rather than unarmed.

Jemaah Islamiyah is JI provides a good case study of how sophisticated the network is and the flowing their organizational set—and how heavily dependent they are on personal connections.

In Indonesia, which has the world's largest Muslim population, a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center found only a minority—about 30%—believed Osama bin Laden was behind the 9/11 attacks. Most Indonesians do not support the idea of violence. Moreover, JI didn't want to act outdoors. This is a good defense against.

Which brings me to my SIXTH myth, the last but perhaps the most important myth. The US is the best-looking thin-lange against global terrorism.

The United States is the world's only superpower. Then, due to this generation's vast spatial sensitivities, the US is only a supporting player and a galvanizing force. How would that be done? Ben Ladin himself tells us. Ladin first described the battle as to did not a middle-the Muslim world. It is not a fight between Islam and American—but a battle for the soul of Islam between a radical minority and a moderate majority.

At the core of the extremist war is an ideological battle. That is why language, culture, and religion play such crucial roles in translating what has spread the world to take action in defining what's the war.

The irony is that the United States, in some points, has become the strongest weapons of the bullets—unless by serious complexities exist such respect for the Muslim world that even the smallest encounters with the military. This is part of the reason a perceived unilateral invasion of Iraq pushed anti-Americanism, and part underneath the surface—and particularly in Muslim countries—to all-time highs in 2003—and why Iraq has become the global terrorist's Afghanistan.

Once Americans and their allies realize this, and begin to consider unilateral, then our cumulative losses and progress. After all, when you look at the new conflict, it's unwinnable for non-Muslims to win this battle. The Muslims must resolve the root conflict by themselves.

Response

What steps should we take moving forward? There are the areas we should immediately address—each holds a local and global impact.

1) An ideological response to counter the world view pushed by the radicals.

2) A military and law enforcement response—that has been the first attempts. It need not done by ground, strategic like bombardment that drives the cause the terrorists evaporate.

3) Intelligence sharing. A real effort to try to cut down on vested interests as we can get a realistic view of the evolving threat.

4) An educational response. Making sure radical ideology is not gained in within school walls. The result? Schools that create the first attempts it need not done by ground, strategic like bombardment that drives the cause the terrorists evaporate.

5) Intelligence sharing. A real effort to try to cut down on vested interests as we can get a realistic view of the evolving threat.

6) An educational response. Making sure radical ideology is not gained in within school walls. The result? Schools that create the first attempts it need not done by ground, strategic like bombardment that drives the cause the terrorists evaporate.

In my opinion, Malaysia has become to succeed in this—but they were using carrots were making.

7) A financial response: One method is the region can do much more about cutting down terrorist financing—by tracking and disrupting fund-raising operations and the flow of money through charities.

8) A legislative response—A Singapore think made this a reality of the Philippines, for example, and found that a majority of parents of the terrorists in the past five years would have been prevented if we had an anti-terror law. Why? Because these are were evaluated by people who had already been arrested—and could have been released because of the lack of legislation.

Finally, I'd recommend a three-way approach to need these problems.

1) Identify our problems, the theme in each issues. Be sure to aware of different issues, pull out as broader perspectives as we can get beyond parochial interests of nation states.

2) Communicate the problem as ... stabilize goal of [illegible] the public. "Why?" Because you mobilize your effectiveness and study—and you simultaneously run down the unintended point of view for the whole. Obviously, [illegible] and the others.

3) In order to communicate with the public, you will need to learn to work with the media—both mainstream and [illegible].

Transparency

My central interest in talking about terrorism is to show how media can help in counterterrorism sessions—how media can help in making the world safer.

One of the best examples of fair engagement was when Singapore arrested 13 JI members in November 2001. The next day three primetime, case histories, members of the Indonesian police authorities were only in local, anyone but also in international publications. By doing that, Singapore told people of the problem and helped prevent anything, or [illegible] and [illegible] terrorists.

The public must be told what they're facing because in the end, mark sanders ensure that the Islamist terrorists trailing to name [illegible] to exchange the terrorist networks. And we in Mainstream media like that one, people will not give up their freedoms willingly until bad actors they know exactly what they're getting to return.

[The article is a condensed version of the speech that Ressa, CNN bureau chief of CNN in Atlanta, gave on April 22 at the World Affairs Special Operations Conference in Washington, D.C. Ressa was from 23 countries, including Indonesia and China. Ressa, now the head of ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs, was the only journalist allowed inside the conference by China.]

Jemaah Islamiyah: Attacks and setbacks

JEMAAH ISLAMIYAH (ISLAMIC Group) is a terrorist network which aims to establish an Islamic state in Southeast Asia.

Abu Sayyaf broke away from the MNLF in the early 1990s by Abubakar Janjalani and Khadaffy Janjalani, who have preached a puritanical interpretation of Islam. They are either JI leaders have close ties or have attended training camps in Afghanistan run by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida, to better finance and carry out attacks, some of which are as follows:

● **May 1, 2000:** An explosion tears into the front of the Jakarta residence of Philippine Ambassador to Indonesia Leonides Caday, killing two and injuring 21, including the ambassador. In 2001, militant Abdul Aziz surrenders to Indonesian authorities and admits he drove a van packed with explosives to Caday's house and used a mobile phone to detonate them. He is sentenced to 20 years in prison on Oct. 11, 2001.

● **Sept. 13, 2000:** A car bomb blasts at the Jakarta Stock Exchange, killing 15 and injuring about 20.

● **Dec. 24, 2000:** At least 11 are killed and about 100 injured when synchronized bombings occur at a Catholic Church in Pematangsiantar, Manila, Papua and parts of the Riau Islands. Those in Manila, a predominantly Muslim area, and the pump-handle explosion of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport killing.

● **Jan. 31, 2002:** Captured Indonesian Hambali tells Philippine investigators of explosives in JI member Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, an Indonesian who admits to bombing the Cebu, JI bombings. He is sentenced in April 2003 to 17 years in prison, but escapes on July 14, 2003 with Cyang Cramo and Reynaldo Pacheco, Sayyaf members. They are later killed.

● **March 15, 2002:** Agus Dwikarna, a high-ranking JI member, is arrested for illegal possession of explosives at a house on his Indonesian travel originating in Bangkok. He is later sentenced to 17 years in prison. Dwikarna has been implicated in the Feb. 27, 2004 bombing of SuperFerry 14.

● **Oct. 12, 2002:** Bali bombings explosion in Kuta, Indonesia kills around 200 and injures more than 300, most of them Australian tourists. Abdul Ghozi and Dwikarna have been connected to the bombings in Zamboanga and Davao. He also confessed to helping plan the bombings at the Jakarta Stock Exchange and Jakarta Stock Exchange and Jakarta Stock Exchange and

More HIV carriers surfacing for free medicine – DOH

By Norman Bordadora

THE GOVERNMENT'S MISTRUST given providing free medication for AIDS has encouraged persons with the human immunodeficiency virus to come out, be interviewed and monitored by health authorities, according to the Department of Health.

Joel Atienza, coordinator of the department's HIV/AIDS program, said the National Epidemiology Center recorded 56 new HIV-positive cases in March after announcing in February that free antiretroviral treatments were available at six government hospitals.

Atienza said the 56 new cases recorded in March were the highest monthly incidence recorded by the DOH since 1984, when HIV/AIDS was a relatively new, and less understood, threat to life.

"Before, we would have 10 to 20 cases; now we have 56 cases, the highest month-to-month number of cases," Atienza told the weekly Kapihan sa Sheraton news forum Friday.

Atienza said that while many factors were behind the increase in the number of cases recorded in March, one of them would have to be the government's offering of free HIV medicines.

"There are many factors to consider but the one we think that's the cause is the cases could also be attributed to improvement in reporting added to that, we made an initial statement in February that treatment was now available for our brothers and sisters who have AIDS," Atienza said.

The antiretroviral medicines are available for free at the regional institute for Tropical Medicine in Taguig, the San Lazaro Hospital and the Philippine General Hospital in Manila, the Jose Reyes Memorial Center in Le Union, the Vicente Sotto Medical Center in Cebu and the Davao Medical Center.

"The DOH has been improving its recording and evaluation. And (this is a result of) its partnership with different stakeholders as well," said Dr. Henry Ortega, program manager of the Philippine AIDS Foundation.

"You can go to our hospitals for counseling and testing. Also, there is a mandatory testing for migrant workers since it is a policy of the receiving countries," Ortega said.

AIDS testing, however, isn't being offered for free. "But if you're an individual responsible for your behavior, what's P1,500 to P600," Ortega said.

Atienza said the DOH registry had recorded 2,484 cases. From 1984 to estimated 11,200 cases unreported. Atienza said the Philippines remained classified in the international health community as a low-prevalence country as far as AIDS was concerned.

"But there is cause for alarm, Atienza said. He said that "people practicing high-risk behavior," such as sex workers and intravenous drug users, "are thriving," a situation worsened by lack of knowledge about the condition and the low use of condoms. With Scott Andrew Zimara

Malnutrition stalks Mindanao school kids

CITY—AT LEAST 5,000 SCHOOL-children in the Central Mindanao province have been found to be malnourished, officials said.

Recently, a joint project involving the National Food Authority (NFA) and the Department of Education (Deped) was launched to address the problem.

Lerma Almanzar, NFA information officer in the region, said the NFA and the Deped were working together to distribute iron-rich rice to malnourished students in North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat.

Almanzar said most of those lacking in nutrition were found in impoverished areas in the two provinces.

The United Nation's Children Fund (Unicef) recently ranked the Philippines 9th among 30 developing nations with the most number of underweight children.

Unicef also described the country's efforts at addressing malnutrition as inefficient.

Min Coutinho, manager Fernando Nuñez said the programs aimed at addressing the malnutrition problem by providing the children with iron-fortified rice. He said the children would receive a dose by supply of rice for the next 90 days.

A Social Weather Stations survey recently showed that hunger was on the rise in the country. It said the hunger rate hit an all-time high of 18.9 percent in March 2006, representing some 2.8 million families that had experienced hunger in the last three months.

Oberlie C. Señase, PIO Mindanao Bureau

Ateneo renames center

SUDDEN DE MANILA (UPDATED)—The Ateneo de Manila University's Journalism training center has been renamed the Ramon Magsaysay Award Center for Journalism to reflect the regional focus of its mandate.

The change, which involved the addition of the word "Asia" to its former name, was in line with an agreement signed last Monday by Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, Ateneo president, and Mariner von Busch, head of the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation's Manila-based Philippines.

Since its inception in 2000, the center has trained 513 news media professionals from 17 Asian countries, the university said. The center offers a master's degree in journalism, diploma courses in online and broadcast journalism, and short courses in investigative reporting, photojournalism and similar topics.

It is set to launch a diploma course in photojournalism by year's end with the support of World Press Photo based in the Netherlands.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, May 7, 2006
4th Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 4:8-12

Peter's testimony

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke up, "Leaders of the people! Elders! It is a fact that you are being examined today for a good deed done to a cripple. How was he healed? You and all the people of Israel must know that this man stands before you cured through the Name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene. You had him crucified, but God raised him from the dead. Jesus is the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. There is no salvation in anyone else, nor there is no other Name given to humankind all over the earth by which we may be saved."

2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-2

God's children

See what singular love the Father has for us: we are called children of God, and we really are. This is why the world does not know us, because it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children and what we shall be has not yet been shown. We when he appears in his glory, we know that we shall be like him, for then we shall see him as he is.

Gospel: John 10:11-18

The Good Shepherd

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. The hireling herdsman runs away when a wolf comes, for the shepherd is not at stake and the sheep are not his own. They abandon the sheep as soon as they see the wolf coming; then the wolf snatches and scatters the sheep. This is because the hired hand works for pay and has no feeling for the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father. Because of this I give my life for my sheep.

"I have other sheep that are not of this fold. These I have to lead as well, and they shall listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock and one shepherd in all.

"The Father loves me because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down freely. It is mine to lay down and to take up again: this mandate I received from my Father."

Commentary

The Easter season is the season, the presence of Jesus with us in the Body of Christ, his own people. This name of Jesus (meaning one who saves the people) is the steadfast and risen one among us now. One of the ways we image the risen Christ among us is the Good Shepherd who pastors his flock through self-sacrificing love. God in Jesus loves us, forgives us, no holding back. And out of this overflow—and we are called to listen only to his voice and follow him alone. We too are the beloved children of God and Jesus, called to lay down our lives with him for one another and even for the shepherdless ones of the fold. Are we good sheep, fostered children, and shepherds to one another?

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5 suspected NPAs cry torture

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CAMP VICENTE LIM—FIVE MEN ESCORTED by soldiers to the military camp here Friday said they were tortured by their police and military captors.

Speaking with the INQUIRER inside their detention cell at the camp, Antonio Tamayora, Michael Manayo, Axel Abaniel Pingoy, Rico Pinalero and Fed Custodio refuted their captors' claims that they were wounded inside several shootouts.

It was the first time the suspects were able to talk to the media after the police held them incommunicado for a week.

But of the five, only Tamayora, Manayo and Custodio accused their captors of physically hurting them.

Both Pingoy and Pinalero said they were only "mentally tortured."

Manayo, who said he was not an NPA member but a rice-fighting all-rounder and a compulsive gambler, suffered the most.

"What they did to us was worse. We were treated like animals," Manayo said, his voice cracking. "They were forcing me to admit that I was an NPA commander in Cavite. But I told them that I'm just a rice-fighting all-rounder."

His right arm had a superficial wound while Tamayora's right leg bore a big wound.

Both said they sustained the injuries when police and naval intelligence operatives forced them to board a van at gunpoint during their arrest in Tagaytay City on the evening of April 28.

"They held us down on the floor of the vehicle. Then they beat us with M-16s," Manayo said.

They said their captors did nothing for their wounds.

"If I wanted to drink water, they would hit my head. My head is still aching," Manayo said in near tears.

Manayo said the beatings continued while his captors were forcing him to admit he was an NPA commander.

"But I knew nothing about guns and the NPA. All I know is to raise and handle fighting cocks because it is my job," he said.

Chief Supt. Peregrino Neblis, Calabarzon police director, could not be reached for comment.

A few hours after they were seized, the suspects said they were brought to a dark jail facility where they were kept in one cell, except for Pinalero who was placed in solitary confinement.

By their reckoning, the five said they were brought to at least four detention centers.

They said that for three days and three nights, they were blindfolded and handcuffed in their backs.

Although they were never told where they were, they all thought that the jail was inside a Philippine Navy camp.

"We were never told of the reasons for our arrests. Our captors were just forcing us to admit that we were NPA rebels and that we were involved with the so-called demobilization plot," Pingoy said.

The five said they were finally taken from their cell and made to board at least two vehicles. It was only then that the police removed their blindfolds.

Moments later, they were presented to the media in Camp Crame after which they were again transferred to another cell.

"The room was so dark we could not even tell his color. It completely had an ventilation," Sarmiento said. "We just knew each other by voice."

After a week, the police finally allowed them to see their relatives who staged a rally in front of the camp shortly after the group was presented to reporters in Tagaytay City on Friday.

The Calabarzon police had earlier denied having custody of the five.

Two more militants abducted

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk
and Michael P. Tarrazas
PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE CRACKDOWN ON MILITANTS CONTINUES.

Two more leaders of militant groups were abducted in separate incidents in a span of seven days in Luzon and Mindanao.

On Friday a leader of the party-list group Anakpawis was abducted by two armed men in Angeles City.

On April 28, a leader of the militant group Anak Bayan went missing in Zamboanga del Sur and was believed abducted.

The abduction of Bernadette Magdaong, 32, brought to 19 the cases of involuntary disappearances of members of militant groups in Central Luzon since 2005, the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said on Saturday.

Magdaong is chair of the Anakpawis chapter in Barangay Mandasi, one of the big urban poor communities in Angeles City.

Magdaong's wife reported seeing two men talking to her husband at around 2 a.m. in their house. They dragged him into a waiting car.

Intelligence agent

According to his wife, Magdaong worked briefly as an intelligence operative of the National Bureau of Investigation.

In Zamboanga del Sur, Brian Macalilang, 35, a leader of Anak Bayan, disappeared while on his way from Tukuran to visit a friend in Lakewood town.

Brian's friend, however, said he failed to show up.

Susan Macalilang-Amontecha, 36, told the INQUIRER that before her brother disappeared, Brian had planned first to stay for rates in Barangay Tabucol-Lakewood. But the call went dead.

Michelle Kaquin of Karapatan said the group went to the Lakewood police office where they learned of an abduction incident on the day Brian disappeared.

But driver Christopher Pinggo Moreno, 26, told police he was driving to Lakewood from Pagadian City when four armed men hailed him.

Narvaes said armed men forcibly took one of his male passengers and transferred him to another van.

Asked in his sworn description of the "abducted" passenger Pelter area.

But Maj. Robert Rabusit of the military's civil relations group said the barangay report of an abduction in Zamboanga del Sur.

Release demanded

In another incident, Karapatan demanded the immediate release of three leftist activists arrested on April 30 at a military checkpoint in Basilan this Catanauan town in Quezon province.

Aberly Lescuera, a staff member of Karapatan-Quezon chapter, assailed the military for its continuous detention of Joel de la Rosa, Armando de la Torre and Roberto Ely.

Army Maj. Ano Nieto, spokesperson of the military's Southern Luzon Command, earlier said that De la Rosa, Ely and Lescuera Ariel Lucas were arrested by Army soldiers after they were suspected of being New People's Army rebels.

Karapatan and other leftist groups strongly denied that the men were communist guerrillas.

In this developed, the International Labor Solidarity Mission, whose members from 12 countries investigated the killings of farmers and workers' leaders and labor rights advocates in the Philippines, wants the police, military and civilian officials excluded from the task force that the government will form to look into the killings. With reports from Joelle T. Mukhart Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, and Jeanette Andrade

Camp restrictions for all, says Senga

ZAMBOANGA CITY—RESTRICTIONS ON civilian access to certain parts of Camp Aguinaldo, the headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), were imposed for the general public and not just journalists, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga said during a recent visit here.

"It's not directed against a particular group but for every (visitor)," Senga said.

Members of the Defense Press Corps had raised a howl over the sudden tightening of rules on access to and movement within of Camp Aguinaldo.

In a memorandum dated April 20, AFP spokesperson Col. Bartolo Ilagan said only members of the DPC and reporters accredited by his office were to be allowed entry to the military headquarters and only during the scheduled press briefings or media events.

"Except for the PIO and DPC officers and the grandstand, all areas inside the camp are off-limits unless there are events allowed for media coverage," Ilagan said.

Journalists covering Camp Aguinaldo suspected that the tightening of regulations had something to do with the military's efforts to shield the Mayuga report from the public. The report cleared four senior military officers of alleged involvement in election fraud in Maguindanao during the 2004 presidential election.

Senga told reporters on the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Southern Command here that the regulations had long been in existence at Camp Aguinaldo but the military had been lenient about enforcing them.

Jaclyn S. Aliparlo, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Recto U: Fake diplomas taint name of late senator

Francisco Tatad

and adjoining stores in Quiapo and Sta. Cruz, in Del City's university belt, that will sell you a diploma for any degree you heart may desire.

Printing shops, second-hand book stores, art and cross-stitch supply shops, [illegible] and watch repair stalls are in front for counterfeiting work stations.

Here, Metro Manila's master beggars could vent one ninth any college degree and other school credentials, as well as most government documents, including passports supposedly issued by the foreign office, they say [illegible].

Add to the list documents from the National Bureau of Investigation and Philippine National Police, arrest warrants and detention release orders from the Justice Department, as well registration certificates from the Land Transportation Office.

Fake diplomas cost between P350 and P1,000. Foreign school credentials cost much more, but save on arrest hassle.

According to some educators, Recto U has been owning the Manila city government and the local police force for more than 50 years. Allegedly, both have always looked the other way.

Others compare the extortion setup to a "friendly cancer" eating away at the morals and values of society.

Tarnishing Recto

"It's sad that the younger generation is ridiculing C.M. Recto—former to commercial doctor they're known for falsified documents. It's really disgusting," lamented Sampaguita Pictures, Richard Recto, grandson of the late senator whose the street was named.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza admitted the continued operations of Recto U "was not helping the city's student's capital a bad reputation, it was also 'tarnishing the illustrious name and patriotic legacy of the late Sen. Claro M. Recto."

The Batangas native was a three-term congressman, president of the Constitutional Convention, Supreme Court associate justice, education, health and public welfare commissioner, a senator and an ambassador.

In a move apparently aimed at [illegible] Recto, the Manila city government passed on Feb. 17, 2004 (four months after the nationalist senator's death), an ordinance renaming Mayhaligue Ascarraga Street—which stretches from Legarda (Sampaloc) to Del Pan (Tondo)—as the commercial center since the early 1900s...to C.M. Recto Avenue.

Urban renewal

On Feb. 28, 1993, then President Fidel V. Ramos issued Proclamation No. 661 placing portions of Recto U under the "renewal and infrastructure development program" of the Public Estates Authority.

In a 2004 directive, President Macapagal-Arroyo transferred the authority to the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., a government-owned firm.

Asked how the city government was going to remedy the situation, Atienza said they were planning a "massive revitalization," and asked this reporter to hold off the story's publication.

The mayor also said they counted "at least six complainants to ensure effective law enforcement," stressing that they were "very serious in sending people to jail."

However, there was little evidence that previous police and NBI operations had any deterrent effects on the illegal practice.

Police protection

Sometime in February last year, witnesses related the Western Police District (WPD) to a raid on a used motor vehicle, to the illegal operations of Recto U which, he said, was apparently getting protection from crooked cops and barangay officials in the area.

"This is the only logical reason why these shops and dens are operating under the very noses of authorities without being raided. But their time is up. If my city cops cannot stop their operation, then I will personally see to it that I write 'finis' to this unlawful practice. I will appoint/ those bad cops and village chiefs," Atienza was quoted as telling City Hall reporters.

Admitting that he had run out of patience, the mayor, who is on his third and last term, said his instructions to WPD would be the "last one."

But going after Recto U's notorious "document specialists" won't be a walk in the park, according to Sr. Insp. Ariel Calumpang, head of the WPD university belt detachment.

Calumpang disclosed that "some of the alleged fake diploma shop owners have managed to secure barangay's permits [from City Hall]. This complicates matters. We need to coordinate any drive with City Hall."

Commission on Higher Education (CHED) officer in charge Emerlinda Oyengco Jr. observed that the public seemed to have completely accepted Recto U as a way of life.

Some C.M. Recto avenue shop owners interviewed for this story professed to know nothing about the illegal trade.

Nilney at Recto

Even the late Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. reportedly patronized the [illegible] diploma mills.

In accordance with the testimony in August 2003, Dr. Nestor Tarac recounted that Aquino used to help him get into college in the 1950s (when his late father Gob was still actively involved in the Hukbalahap movement) by making the rounds of shops along C.M. Recto Avenue that sold fake diplomas.

Aquino, then an adviser to the late President Ramon Magsaysay, used to get around the problem of the younger Tarac not having a high school diploma.

Tarac, orphaned at 3 when his mother died, had completed only fifth grade. From the age of 14 until he turned 17, Tarac was in the seminary of Lamboan and the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Taking the vacant along with him, Aquino went to CM. Recto Avenue where fake diplomas were sold.

"I'll buy you a diploma so you can enrol in college," Tarac recalled Aquino telling him.

But the owner of Bohol Colleges in Manila declined to accept Tarac, even if he had what seemed to be a genuine diploma.

Tarac said the owner was afraid the government would get back at him for accepting the senator's cohort.

Aquino then went to Executive Secretary Ruben Ancheta and told him of Tarac's problem.

Ancheta said Tarac should take the validating exams for dependents of war veterans. The battery of tests, two hours long each and taken over nine days, showed that Tarac was ready for college.

Tarac ended up studying medicine at Far Eastern University (whose president, Nicanor Reyes, was married to Josefina, sister of former President Corazon C. Aquino) where he graduated at the top of his class in 1965.

Crime

Clearly, society is partly to blame for making acceptable something that in other societies would be severely repugnant, said lawyer Homer Mirasol, head of the NBI's anti-fraud and computer crimes division.

Both Mirasol and Oyengco pointed out that the falsification of public and private documents is a crime.

According to Articles 171 and 172 of the Revised Penal Code, the illegal trade is punishable by fines and jail terms of up to 12 years.

According to NBI and WPD chiefs interviewed, the illegal operation officially is only the majority because of countless prospective overseas Filipino workers in need of false diplomas, birth and marriage certificates, among other foreign job requirements.

An unofficial count of OFWs have been sent home and blacklisted by their foreign employers due to fake documents they had obtained from Recto U, giving the country and its labor export industry a bad name.

Old problem

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) head Rosalinda Baldoz acknowledged it was an "old problem" and one "that is not addressed fully" by government.

According to Baldoz, "local [fraternity] recruiters [with falsified papers] abroad face possible suspension of their operations," among other sanctions.

She did not say if some companies had been padlocked for violating the POEA ruling, but stressed that the agency did not tolerate the practice.

Lawyer Danilo Dupay, POEA deputy administrator during the latter part of the Ramos administration, noted that "in most cases, it's the blue collar job OFWs who resort to the use of fake credentials."

Arroyo party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, one of the active members of the panel, expressed her willingness to sponsor a resolution calling for a House inquiry into the illegal trade, said committee secretary Beatriz Sangga via text message.

For her part, committee chair Rep. Cynthia Villar promised to initiate hearings to aid of legislation to address the issue "with the end in view of coming up with appropriate measures to mitigate, if not obliterate, falsification of academic credentials."

In a brief statement, Villar wondered "why this practice, while unlawful, flaunts and is being patronized by a substantial number of job-seeking Filipinos."

"Some of them it appears for underlying problems in higher education, leading to the fact that some of our countrymen have become so desperate that they have resorted in this illegal practice of using falsified documents in order to secure gainful employment abroad," she said in her statement.

Bite the bullet

Yes, desperate are its "least successful [gripping the bull's] blade," observed Dennis Garanan, deputy director general of the state-run Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC).

"Those OFWs are apparently forced by circumstances to bite the bullet. This problem is an offshoot of poverty," Garanan said.

But the former president of the National Union of Students of the Philippines professed that "poverty is not a valid excuse to resort to the illegal practice, one that should not be tolerated."

And "rejected outright by our people," stressed Presidential Adviser on Education Mona Valisno.

"Because of its resulting damage in the moral fiber of our society," said the former higher education commissioner.

Dr. Emmanuel Angeles, chancellor of the Angeles University Foundation in Pampanga and a member of the consultative commission that proposed revisions to the 1987 Constitution, shared the same views.

Items like Recto U should provoke a deeper examination of the country's educational system and national psyche as a whole, said Angeles, the former president and CEO of the government-owned Clark Development Corp.

Education is key

For former Sen. Francisco Tatad, an anachronic self-examination should include both our weaknesses and strengths—"weaknesses are just not just bare which it could not be) for our becoming a more serious people."

In his book "Hard Facts for Hard Times (Or some truths we'd rather not talk about)," Tatad wrote, "If our institutions, values and norms are in disarray. They must be rebuilt and the nation with them."

The opposition stalwart pointed out: "We have become a lawless people... (But) the problem begins with us, not with others. We have to begin to rebuild our own mindset and stop blaming everyone else."

Tatad asserted—"there are no quick fixes, no overnight solutions," adding that "education is the key. But we must first know who we are and what we want to become."

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DIPLOMAS GALORE for anyone who needs them: Templates from different schools are displayed on Recto Avenue.

GRADES, IDs...these are the "for name it, they have it.

PHOTOS BY ROMY NOVIO

INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jon Bandoquil
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Giving hope to Tawi-Tawi villagers

By Edwin G. Fernandez
and Jeoffrey Maitem
Bongao, Tawi-Tawi

THIS 1.85-METER wooden footbridge in Bagong was built by the locals through the ARMM Social Fund Project.

JIMMY PULAHAN, A 28-year-old seaweed farmer here, has not reached sixth grade in school.

So, he could not find a good paying job in Tawi-Tawi province other than seaweed farming.

Like other fathers, he wants his children to reach a degree and find good jobs.

"That is not impossible, that way is possible," Pulahan said in Filipino during the inauguration of the public school building in his village built through the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Social Fund Project (ASFP), a World Bank-funded program.

The ASFP's goal is to help reduce poverty and build peace in the ARMM communities through simple but meaningful projects.

Pulahan and 154 other heads of families in Bagong village took part in building the school that would cater to their children's elementary education.

Collective labor

In fact, Pulahan was the construction supervisor when the school building worth P450,000 was built.

"We labored together so this is very important for us. I am proud to be part of its construction," he said.

Barangay Bagong is about five hours travel by boat from Bongao, Tawi-Tawi's capital town.

The village's distance from the town center would make one think that Bagong is part of another country, especially since its house-to-house go fishing in Malaysian waters and listen to Malaysian radio stations.

Pulahan said he knew how hard it is to be unschooled per se as he wanted his children to get schooled.

"Someday we will leave this place and have a decent life somewhere," he told his children with tears in his eyes in front of reporters.

Like Pulahan, Fehra Amani, a 38-year-old mother of five, said she will send her 10-year-old son back to school. Her son, she said, stopped going to school after a flash flood hit the village and destroyed the old school.

"Now that we have a school building again, he and his siblings could go back to school. I want them to learn so they would not end up like us," Amani said.

ARMM social welfare secretary Ruby Sahali said the project is only one of the social development undertakings being implemented by the regional government.

Ownership feeling

"They (people) are part of it. These are not done-for projects. These are not imposed upon them. These are what they want, therefore they have the feeling of ownership," Sahali said.

Sahali, also a native of Tawi-Tawi, said previous ARMM projects implemented in the province have failed because those were not what the people wanted.

Nasbery Muhamad, a former three-term island municipal mayor, agreed.

He said they were skeptical when they first heard about the ASFP program. "We thought it's the same with other programs that did nothing good to us," he said.

But 45-days later, he found out that the program would indeed help them overcome their basic problems.

In the nearby village of Sitangan Dilah, the ASFP also built a 180-meter footbridge that links more than 70 houses located on the coastline. By low tide, most people here build their homes along the shoreline.

Bridge

"This bridge will link us to our neighbors, low tide or high tide," Rasmin Abubakar, one of the villagers who helped put up the bridge, said.

"We are thankful because I learned a lot out of the projects we helped build. The footbridge was only secondary. The most important thing here was the process we underwent," Muhamad said.

"The people in the community are more united in pursuing their goal of uplifting the lifestyle of their neighbors. In fact, local officials, who have differences are helping in the implementation of the projects," Nur Amani, an official of Bagong, said.

The people of Tawi-Tawi town are also looking forward to the future completion of a fish landing and pier head, health center and other small-scale infrastructure projects.

Of course, there are also the existing concerns and capability building activities in store for them, according to Sahali.

THIS SCHOOL BUILDING, built by residents of Barangay Bagong, Tandubas, Tawi-Tawi, with help from the World Bank-funded ARMM Social Fund Project, is the first of its kind in the remote village.

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Across the NATION

Army, rebs won't accept peace zones

LUCENA CITY—THE CALL FOR RESPECT FOR "peace zones," which has been repeatedly made by Sierra Madre natives caught in the crossfire of the government's counterinsurgency operations, has been turned down by the military and New People's Army rebels.

"What peace zones are they talking about? Any declaration of peace zone is useless. The military will never respect it anyway," communist spokesperson Rogelio "Ka Roger" Rosal said in a mobile phone interview.

He added that if the natives really want genuine peace, they should address Malacañang and not the NPA.

"We're more than willing to meet them (the government) for genuine peace but GMA (President Macapagal-Arroyo) sabotaged the negotiations," Rosal said.

He claimed that President Macapagal-Arroyo had breached previous agreements that made the resumption of the peace talks nearly impossible.

While the imminent resumption of armed hostilities in Sierra Madre between government forces and communist rebels, Catholic Church members in northern Quezon called on the combatants to respect the peace zones that the Church and media sector groups declared in 2004.

Army Maj. Jose Bruno, spokesperson of the military's Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Makar here, maintained that the government forces share the peace aspirations of the people.

"But there are terrorist groups that have been disturbing the peace and order in their aim of toppling the government. It is the military's solemn duty to defend the government and crush the terrorist movement," he said in a statement here.

When categorically asked if military forces will continue to conduct combat operations in Sierra Madre, Bruno replied: "Yes. But we assure the affected communities that the troops in the field fully respect human rights."

With the statement of the military and the NPA on the futility of the community-declared peace zones, **the fragile peace situation in Sierra Madre** is now also in peril.

"If they are really pro-people, the military and the NPA should heed the call for peace of different communities. If they can't stop their fighting, at least they should respect it elsewhere," said Atty. Lito, spokesperson of the Kapatirang Alay sa Kinabuhayan ng Sierra Madre (Kaskis), the biggest indigenous organization in the province.

Lito lamented that the peace aspiration of Barangay Sto. Cristo Wicks settlers has been eclipsed by the "hunger for enemy blood" frame of mind of the military and the NPA.

In December last year, Kaskis-Quezon led a multisectoral initiative that declared Barangay Sto. Cristo of Real, Infanta and Barangay Dram," *Jeffrey L. Ventilacion, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

QUALITY TIME
A man spends time with his daughter strolling on the beaches of world-famous Boracay Island, now hounded by controversies including one that threatens to displace members of the Ati community.

Gov wants mining probe reviewed before results released

SORSOGON CITY—SORSOGON Gov. Raul Lee has urged the government to subject the findings of the commission chaired by Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes, which has been investigating the effects of Lafayette mining operations in Bulan, to scrutiny by competent entities. Officials believe it is much public.

Lee expressed hope that the delay in the release of the final report of the commission would give them a chance to ensure that its findings were backed by scientific data and been obtained by means of independent and verifiable sampling and analysis.

He suggested that the commission should not be allowed to brief media after submitting its report to the President.

"The Left and the antimining groups are a deadly combination. Unfortunately, they have been appointed to government. They must not allow them to advance their advocacies at our expense. We have seen how one army that they had leaked had started to scare people in Barangay from buying and selling fish again," he said.

Lee said the "first hand" made his conclusion from another discussion with some boat and boat people who have not shown any genuine concern for poor fishermen. *Bobby Q. Lobañes, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

PNP checking reports 'jueteng' back in Central Luzon

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—Stunning" operations have "shown results" in some areas in Central Luzon where it had been strong a year ago, the top police commander in the region said on Saturday.

Chief Supt. Arnaldo Lapitoc, Region police director, said he was "encouraged" by reports on lurking resurgence in coordination with the police's intelligence group.

Bataan and Pampanga are among the areas in which the illegal numbers game is being revived in varied modes, Rabusa said.

Citing ongoing validation, he withheld information on the size and extent of the game's resurgence or who were actually running it.

The recent attempts to resume the underground lottery are happening a year since jueteng was stamped in May 2005 on the heels of political controversies besieging the Arroyo administration.

Chief Supt. Alejandro Lapitoc, former Central Luzon police director, called the province attempts at "surreptitious" and "displaced subvalorio (collection)."

The one-year step was the longest in the region since 1998, reports gathered by the bosses showed.

But always the game resumed in the two-top recalcitrant areas, indicating the suspected close ties between politics and jueteng, specifically its role in funding campaign kitties.

Rabusa said he had instructed police chiefs in the region's seven provinces and 11 cities to "mostly implement" the one-strike policy on all forms of illegal gambling. That policy refers to the immediate relief of police chiefs in areas where illegal games are confirmed existing.

Jueteng bankrolls are being reclaimed in Central Luzon at the same time that the state-sanctioned Small Town Lottery (STL) is being run.

Fernando Quiñones, chief of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office's (PCSO) regional supervisors' office in Manila, said STL is regularly played now in Angeles City through the Lake Tahoe Gaming Corp. and in Bataan under the Sunset Bay Resorts and Entertainment Corp.

The game is now on its test run in Bulacan by the Diamond Gaming and Research Center Corp., the local license holder.

Sun Cove Corp. and Nova Mega Gaming Corp. have not been given local clearance. Pampanga and Nueva Ecija, respectively, Quiñones said on Saturday.

Rabusa said the Central Luzon police are not monitoring any STL operations in the region because they have not signed any memorandum of agreement with any of the license holders pertaining to rules and regulations. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

STL PROPONENT Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn with anti-jueteng crusaders Michaelangelo Tan in a recent press conference to announce plans to put a stop to "jueteng."

Once allies of GMA turn foes of gov't backing of Cha-cha

By Ma. Dicsa Laforga
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—FROM FORMER allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo, advocates of federalism have up now her critics as they rejected the campaign to amend the Constitution through the government-sponsored signature campaign called people's initiative.

Some members of the Oriental Movement for Federal Philippines (OMFP) are seeking the ouster of Ms. Arroyo. Others denounced the proposal to shift to a parliamentary form of government through the signature campaign. Because it would only benefit those in power, left others to amend the government to focus on voters' education.

Yet, only a year ago, they lauded this strategy for lawyers, businessmen in the region and many in her 2004 election platform and her State of the Nation Address.

OMFP leaders here are now busy meeting with students and speaking on radio criticizing the signature campaign.

OMFP was seeking changes in the 1987 Constitution through a constitutional convention and not been campaigning against the constituent assembly or people's initiative as ways of changing the Constitution.

The constitutional convention is composed of delegates elected at large. The constituent assembly is Congress convened for the purpose of changing the Constitution.

"We are not supporting the people's initiative. ... we will be doing voter's education so it is not the people of the road lanes," said Emmanuel Amion of the Iloilo Coalition of Non-Government and Development Organizations (Iloilo Code).

OMFP said that as a pinnacle forum, many people have not understood the issues just as many had signed their names during the massive signature drive where they were asked to answer yes or no to a shift from a bicameral-presidential system to a unicameral-parliamentary, and agree to set specified transitory provisions.

Reports said the signature drive was hastily done because barangay officials were given a quota of 15 persons per district and 12 persons via, or about 8.5 million voters, which was required by law for the people's initiative to prosper.

In Iloilo City for example, some signed because they thought it was just an attendance sheet for a community assembly or a signature drive for Philhealth insurance. Many admitted that they did not understand the issues at all.

OMFP leaders here admit that rejection of people's initiative may confuse some people because they were earlier in the forefront of the debate for changing the Constitution and a shift to a federal parliamentary form of government. But as the government-sponsored initiative only favors a parliamentary system and forget federalism, they are left with no choice but reject it, said Amion.

CARPENTER
President Arroyo tries her hand at construction, installing a pre-fabricated steel frame into a row house project during her visit to the San Pio village in Talisay, Cebu recently.

Tobacco losses seen to reach P1B mark

OXBOW CITY—Tobacco farmers here harvested 20 million kilograms during the February to March harvest season but the production was below the usual 30 million kg of Virginia tobacco that they harvest in a year.

Citing latest National Tobacco Administration figures, Baron Sur Rep. Ian Singson said the production loss could reach P1 billion, a kilogram of semi-processed Virginia tobacco sells for P40.

"The extent of the loss could even affect the [peso-dollar] exchange rate. The cigarette manufacturing companies would be importing a lot," Singson said.

Cigarette manufacturers like Fortune Tobacco and Philip Morris Philippines International would have to import from China, the United States and South Africa as a result of the drop in local production of Virginia tobacco, he said.

The US Department of Agriculture reported that Filipinos smoke about 75 billion cigarette sticks a year, which is 2 percent of the total cigarette consumption in East Asia and Pacific.

Singson said the usual cost of imported tobacco is about $5 (P237.2) to $6 (P308.76) a kg.

Strong rains in late January when tobacco plants were already maturing caused the plants to wilt.

Initial reports from the NTA in February set the loss at P500 million.

The Ilocos region accounts for 84 percent of the total Virginia tobacco production in the country, the NTA said.

Singson is asking the government to help the affected tobacco farmers in the Ilocos and Cagayan Valley. He said about 300,000 farmers are involved in tobacco production.

Tobacco is planted once a year and the usual harvest starts in February.

During the Tobacco Festival here last month, Singson facilitated a P56-million loan agreement with the Land Bank of the Philippines for tobacco farmers in the second district of Ilocos Sur. He said the money would be used to buy seeds for the next planting season.

Singson said the loan could be used also for expenses of tobacco-producing families who wanted to go abroad to seek employment.

Frank Cimatu, PhilStarNorth Luzon Bureau

DANCERS take part in the Tobacco Festival in Ilocos Sur recently, viewers of the problems that the industry was suffering. AP/NOEL CELIS

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Int'l group sees systematic killing of leftists

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—THE INTERNATIONAL Labor Solidarity Mission yesterday said it believes there is an ongoing systematic campaign to liquidate National Federation of Sugar Workers' organizers, activists in members and some people away from the NFSW and other militant and progressive organizations in Negros Occidental. The initial story on Page A1 ff

The ILSM, in its report presented to the media here, also linked the pro-government Revolutionary Proletariat Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade to some of the killings, and found the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo culpable for not stopping the closing of militants.

"We find the Arroyo government culpable for human rights violations inasmuch as it deliberately creates the conditions for these political killings to occur, both by omission and by commission," the ILSM members said in their report.

The team composed of delegates from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, New Zealand and the Philippines have been in Negros Occidental this week to investigate the killing of Edwin Ruiz Penaso, Mario Fernandez and Manuel Batallon, the abduction of Bernera Gaugasi, and the continuing harassment experienced by NFSW organizers, its report said.

These atrocities in Negros appear similar in pattern to atrocities suffered by the Hacienda Magbukid ng Filipinos, Hibusong Mayo Uno, Anakpawis party-list group, Bayan Muna party-list group, Bayan, Karapatan and other legal progressive organizations not only in Negros, but in other regions as well, it said.

The ILSM report noted that the atrocities were occurring alongside the Arroyo administration's counter-branding of these organizations as communist fronts, therefore enemies of the state.

The ILSM members called on the government to stop the "killings and political repression," and on the public and the international community to exert pressure to shatter the "prevailing culture of impunity and policy of condoning human rights violations."

The ILSM report said the killing of the NFSW organizers were well-planned and pre-meditated.

CATCH OF THE DAY

It's a daily sight in Davao of fishers (2) in—fishermen hauling their catch in the city's fish port...which boasts of tuna quality that exceeds local and international standards.

ROUNDUP

Top communists charged

BACOLOD CITY—Police have filed robbery-in-band charges against several top leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army in connection with the raid on a police outpost in an upland area of Escalante City last March 19. CPP-NPA founding chair Jose Ma. Sison, CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, CPP-Negros leader and provincial hit-man Ronald Fe Sarabia and 30 other unidentified rebels were named respondents in the complaint filed by the Negros Occidental police at the Escalante Prosecutor's Office. Said filing on Occidental police director Senior Supt. Charles Calima. The NPA guerrillas were raided the police outpost on March 19 bank with them eight firearms, including an M-60 machine gun.

DJIN-IT Bimbo, PDI Bacolod Bureau

Farmers yield firearms

TAYAG, Sorsogon—Police arrested two farmers carrying two improvised .38 cal. revolvers on Thursday. A report said police were manning a checkpoint in the intersection of Maharlika highway and a road in Barangay Lidong when spotted suspects Teodoro Pasco II San Andres, Quezon and Edgardo Pena of Tayag, Quezon—in a motorcycle without a license plate. When searched, the police found the suspects carrying the illegal firearms. The suspects were detained at the municipal jail and will face charges of illegal possession of firearms.

Eddie T. Mallar Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

4 miners rescued in Duet

LUZERN CITY—Four miners allegedly engaged in prostitution in violation here in Duet, Cameroon-Norte were rescued in a raid by the Department of Labor and Employment, the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the police and Night 23. Two of the suspects were Chinese nationals, the rest Filipinos. Labor regulations have that Filipinos and Chinese nationals were made this year to stop child prostitution in Illicit.

Lorraine Aguilar, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Village dad shot dead

TUBLIGBANG CITY—Almost six months after surviving an assassination attempt, a village council official was gunned down by two motorcycle-riding men here on May 1, police said. Carlito Macatangay, a barangay secretary, was driving his tractor home when he was attacked by the two men. Police said the suspects could be the same men who ambushed Macatangay and his brother in the village on Oct. 11 last year. The brothers survived that attack.

Salvador Cabral, PDI-Northern Luzon Bureau

4 car thieves slain

GIL MAPUA, Bulacan—Four suspected car thieves were killed in a shootout with members of the police's Traffic Management Group in Barangay Bagbaguin here on Wednesday. Reports from the Gil Mapua police said the TMG men spotted the suspects driving a van along Governor Pascual Avenue in Barangay Bagbaguin at about 3:30 a.m., they started shooting the police men pursuing them. Gil Mapua police investigator SPO1 Nick Magat identified the slain suspects as Eric Dizal, Ronnie Fernando, Jimbo Bulgar and Rolando Calubia, said in the van recovered by Barangay Captain Pedro Mercado here. All of residents from the suspects.

Fernando Miguel, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Special polls in Maguindanao

COTABATO CITY—A special election for the Barangay Poblacion area of Kabuntalan, Maguindanao was held yesterday to resolve the political tug-of-war between Mike Fernandez and Salvador Mabalosa, the Commission on Elections said. It was the second of such election in Kabuntalan. In the first one on July 20, 2004, when Mabalosa questioned Fernandez's election as winner of the May 2004 polls. During the first special elections.

Mabalosa was declared the rightful mayor and Fernandez argued that the proclamation was anomalous because votes from Barangay Gulayan were excluded. The Comelec agreed and scheduled the second special election to involve 394 voters of Barangay Gulayan. The result of this special balloting will determine the true winner of the 2004 mayoral election.

Charlie C. Gatdula, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Subic officials step up drive vs smuggling of oil in freeport

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—THE anti-smuggling task force here has stepped up its operations against oil smuggling and started conducting random inspections of the offices of oil companies based in this freeport.

"Our spot inspections will make sure that oil coming in and out of the freeport is properly accounted for," said Jose Calimlim, chief of the Task Force Subic.

On Wednesday, Calimlim made a food inventory and checked the oil stock of PTT Oil Co., one of the biggest oil firms here.

He inspected a storage tank and found a inventory 373,000 barrels of oil that PTT imported in March.

Calimlim said three land forces large-scale technical smuggling of fuel here in the past years.

"Oil smuggling occurs when they declare aviation gas as diesel in order to pay lower taxes," he said.

During the inspection of PTT, Calimlim discovered that there was a small discrepancy measured in a few barrels, in the stock.

"But it could be explained by evaporation due to high temperatures and possibly a little spillage," he said.

He said they have yet to record large-scale oil smuggling here.

Joy Alvarado, deputy administrator of Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, said the amount of oil duty found in the storage tank of PTT conformed to the amount the company declared when it applied for importation permits.

"The small discrepancy may are large enough to support allegations of smuggling," Alvarado said.

Jin Solimon, PTT comptroller, welcomed the audit of their oil stock and said they would support the task force's efforts to curb oil smuggling in the freeport.

Calimlim said they would continue to conduct spot inspections to more than 30 oil tanks here to ensure that the government would collect proper taxes from oil imports. *Allan Monsalvez, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

SUBIC officials inspect a petroleum tank of a gasoline supplier in Subic in their efforts to curb oil smuggling in the freeport. The officials found no irregularity in the tank, however. *AGUILA MALIA-ANN*

2 justices relate whys, hows of SC mind, ruling

BAGUIO CITY—ATTESTING THE role of the judiciary in today's turbulent times, two Supreme Court justices this week gave separate views on the high court's responsibility in the search for truth.

Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban likened the judiciary to the media in terms of the quest for truth and information while associate Justice Leonardo Quisumbing dealt with the crucial role of the SC's "judicial privileges."

The SC held summer sessions in this city until May 4.

Court views

The views of Panganiban and Quisumbing were seen to reflect the thinking of the high court's justices who had been confronted with controversial legal issues that bounded the arroyo administration.

After July Mark, the SC upheld Executive Order 420 which called for a unified national ID system.

Later, it struck down as unconstitutional portions of Executive order 464 and voided the government's calibrated preemptive response (CPR) to protest rallies.

EO 464 prevented executive and military officials from appearing at congressional inquiries in aid of legislation without the approval of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The CPR had been used by lawmakers in dispersing rallies against the administration.

Uphold law

The high court, though, has turned the legality of Batas Pambansa 880 which provided the guidelines in the conduct of rallies and the acquisition of rally permits.

Panganiban said the courts and media have a common purpose: the search for truth.

"But the press and the courts are actually powerless," he said. "We are followed by the people because we are correct and the media is believed by the people because what you report is true," "But we differ in approaches," he said.

Panganiban said media reports the news as truth as soon as possible while the court needs more time to deliberate on the legal issues in properly arrive at the truth.

"We have a commitment to the country moves towards more parsimony," he said.

Because of this, he said, "the high court is no longer a bureau the way it was regarded in the ancient times where justices were limited to research."

Quisumbing said the courts have "judicial privilege," referring to its power to intervene in a case or controversy and later resolve the issue.

Collateral damage

In the exercise of this privilege, he said, "some parties can be injured" since the decisions could be harmful to one of the parties.

Both justices reacted to criticism that the high court is taking much time to decide controversial issues affecting the Arroyo administration.

Panganiban said the SC deliberates carefully on legal issues that confront it and takes time to collect evidence because it wants a collegial body.

He said the high court should not be limited to taking its time in deciding on crucial issues.

Rebecca Carrillo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Negros mayors won't go board's way, welcome STL in towns

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—THE LEAGUE of Municipalities of the Philippines-Negros Occidental chapter has passed a resolution inviting the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) to members the Small Town Lottery (STL) project in the 19 municipalities of the province.

The municipal mayors unanimously passed Resolution No. 1 last days after the Negros Occidental provincial board also unanimously adopted an ordinance prohibiting and suspending the entry of STL in the province.

The provincial board passed the resolution to help an announcement made in Cebu by William Wurtle, PCSO's Visayas Mindanao manager, that the Negros Occidental provincial board had invited STL to operate in the province.

Medel Jaro clarified that he presented that the provincial board has adopted a resolution favoring STL because the PCSO board of directors has already approved the operation of STL in Negros Occidental.

He explained the PCSO would not grant permit for STL to operate in a certain city or province unless the local legislative body adopts a resolution "inviting" STL to operate in its area of jurisdiction.

The LMP-Negros Occidental said they decided to invite the operation of STL, adding it is "thorough consideration of the benefits and advantages it could bring to the general populace and also the local government of a municipality to provide the much-needed income for its residents and revenues to the LGU (local government unit)."

The operation of the STL under government control and supervision ensures equitable income for all sectors concerned in terms of regular source and day-to-day basis and even on a long-term supervision, the resolution further said.

The mayors added that the earlier STL is implemented, "the better it will be for the countless number of our people who are in dire need of a legal means to derive needed income."

"The resolution is an invitation for the PCSO to make proposal over the STL, it is up to the individual mayors to decided if they will allow STL in their areas," Bendaniz said the Negros yesterday.

Bendaniz said the mayors have asked him to endorse their resolution but he has not done so because he is waiting for the stand of the League of Provinces of the Philippines.

The League of Provinces wants the PCSO to review and revise the STL rules and regulations to accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991.

Bendaniz said PCSO representatives are scheduled to attend the next League of Provinces board meeting to discuss the government concerns about STL.

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Children from Manila's underbelly kick up a storm in this unique dance school

From a handful of promising dancers, center now has 200 scholars

By Tina G. Santos

AT THE MANILA Bamus and Cultural Arts Center, children aged seven to 14 are trained to be light and graceful as their fans.

CHILDREN A2a

What's Inside

- Person with disability looking for more challenges / A2b
- Cop killed in ambush in Quezon City / A2b
- NBI agents seize P1.2-M fake toner for printers / A2b
- 3 men arrested for stealing LPG from former national police chief Edgar Aglipay / A2b

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SUN CELLULAR

Rommel Apostol's disability has not stopped him from being the best he can be

After graduating cum laude, this active athlete, computer whiz continues to look for more challenges

By Nancy C. Carvajal

HIS BODY MAY BE CONFINED to a wheelchair but his spirit and will take him anywhere he wants to.

At the age of three, Rommel Apostol was stricken ill with polio, leaving his legs weak and useless. He has not walked since.

Now 33, he said that his disability has not prevented him from living as normal a life as possible, including being in a relationship with the opposite sex.

"I have accepted my condition and it has not stopped me from trying to do things normal people do," Apostol told the Inquirer.

With honors

The young man works at the Information Technology Department where he is the chief of the programming section. Apostol is a graduate of the AMA Computer College where he graduated cum laude with a degree in Computer Science. On weekends, he plays basketball, bowls and table tennis. He also has a girlfriend, Rain, who works in Saudi Arabia.

Growing up, Apostol said that there were days when he felt depressed, not because of his condition, but because of the way some people looked down on him.

"I pity them for their ignorance because they could also be disabled by sickness like I was or by aging," he pointed out.

Apostol added that all people have their own disability. "Mine is physical disability. Other people, on the other hand, may be handicapped by ignorance, interference and immaturity."

His schoolmates, however, has not viewed him down and blue. "My disability has driven me to challenge myself to finish my studies and make worthwhile the efforts of people who love and help me," he said.

Apostol said he was grateful to his parents who, despite their humble status, were the ones able to bring him up as normally as possible.

"They would carry me to school so that I could attend class," he said.

As an early age, the young Apostol already showed signs of independence and a determination to be the best that he could be despite his handicap.

As a boy, he refused to ask for help in tutoring around, preferring to crawl instead of being carried around.

Young achiever

He graduated on the top of his class in both elementary and high school. Along the way, he also won several spelling bee contests.

Apostol said he also dabbled in extracurricular activities in high school. "I played basketball, bowled and table tennis and even ran as officer of the Citizen's Army Training course," he told the Inquirer.

Upon graduation, Apostol went to AMA Computer College to on a scholarship grant from the Department of Science and Technology and Florentio Catchalian, now mayor of Valenzuela City.

In college, he was elected student council president, a post which he held from 2002 to 2004.

It was after closing this time that he experienced falling in love for the first time.

"All the pain that I went through earlier in my life was trained by my relationship with Rain," Apostol said.

He was also involved with another girl in one time and to both in another, it was the girl's parents who objected to the relationship because of the parties involved.

"Maybe they were scared that their daughters would end up providing for me instead of the other way around," Apostol joked.

Right now he said that he is earning enough although he would like to make more money to help his parents.

"I feel like I am now a financially challenged than physically disabled person," Apostol said with a smile.

Given the chance, Apostol said he would like to work in Saudi Arabia so that he could be with Rain who has migrated there.

One more goal

He also has another goal: Show "normal" people that persons with disabilities like himself can be self-reliant and should not be discriminated against. "I believe that people with disabilities should be given equal opportunities in accessibility, education, income maintenance and social security."

And the last way Apostol thinks he can put the message across is by appearing on national TV, specifically on a reality TV program like ABS-CBN's Pinoy Big Brother.

"I intend to audition for the next edition of Pinoy Big Brother to show that people like me can do things normal people do. I would like to show televiewers that handicap or disability is not a hindrance," Apostol added.

ROMMEL Apostol: Not hindered on Pinoy Big Brother?

BOYS WILL BE BOYS
Two boys warm off their excess energy by engaging in a tug of war, unmindful of the baking summer heat in Barangay Bantayan, Quezon City.

Policeman shot dead in QC

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A POLICE OFFICER ASSIGNED TO the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group office in Baguio City was shot dead in a gasoline station in Quezon City early yesterday morning.

Supt. Procopio Lipana, chief of the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation Division, identified the slain policeman as Insp. Danilo San Miguel Sarmiento, 50, of the Aklo habitation in Malolos, Bulacan.

Lipana said the police officer was killed in a gas station in the vicinity of 2200, Aurora said P. Tomas Boulevard at around 5:40 a.m.

Sarmiento was on board his Toyota Revo with license plate XCZ 453, waiting for his turn at the gasoline pump, when two men on board a motorcycle stopped in front of the van.

According to Lipana, one of the men alighted from the motorcycle and walked toward the policeman, while the other stayed seated on the motorcycle with its engine running.

The first suspect went up to Sarmiento and fired shot him several times, hitting him in the face, neck and chest, Lipana added. The suspects then went back to the motorcycle and with his companion, took off toward Cubao.

Another policeman, Insp. Rizalde Reyal, who was seated beside Sarmiento in the van, was not harmed. Reyal brought the wounded policeman to the Quirino Memorial Medical Center in Project 4 but Sarmiento died at 5:05 a.m., Lipana said.

"A joint investigation is now being conducted by our investigators and the CIDG regarding the ambush," Supt. Aaron Rellanes, chief of the Intelligence division of the QCPD, said.

Fake toner products confiscated

By Tina G. Santos

AROUND $1.5 MILLION WORTH of fake toner cartridges were seized by National Bureau of Investigation agents when they raided several branches of a computer shop in Silver Manila last Wednesday.

NBI Intellectual Property Rights Division chief Jose Yap said the raids were prompted by a complaint from Assistant Commissioner Rowaldo Packard (IPR) which was represented by Shyngen Sandoval Intellectual Property Attorneys.

Yap said NP sought the bureau's help in investigating C. COMO's Commercial Printer Supply, for allegedly selling fake HP toner cartridges.

Armed with search warrants issued by Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Antonio Eugenio Jr., agents raided on Wednesday morning C. COMO's branches in Dapitan Road, Lin Printer Exhibition Warehouse City, and Ilin, Cebu.

They confiscated some 300 pieces of refilled and repackaged toner cartridges which were allegedly being passed off as original HP products.

5 men nabbed for stealing gas from Aglipay

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THEY ARRIVED WITH THE wrong guy.

Five men were arrested in Iloilo City on Friday night after they were caught in the act of pilfering liquefied petroleum gas from a truck owned by former Philippine National Police chief Edgardo Aglipay.

The suspects were identified as Arnel Agustin, Saxel Lagunay, Joel Medina, Chi-Chi Pineda, and Danny Labra, all residents of Quezon City.

Senior Insp. Daniel Montesino of the Traffic Management Group-Task Force Limbas said a concerned citizen called up the police at 9:30 a.m. past 9 p.m. Friday.

The caller said the police that five men were at the back of the MC Depot on Mountain Avenue in Barangay Ugong, transferring LPG from Aglipay's fuller tank truck to another truck.

Dangerous

"We were alarmed because transferring LPG, a flammable substance, in a public place is very hazardous," Montesino told the Inquirer yesterday.

Montesino said he immediately called up the gasoline station where he knew Aglipay's tank was usually parked. But the tank was not there.

"The Global Positioning System installed in the vehicle did not send signals to our location," the police official said.

Montesino said the driver of Aglipay's truck could have left the vehicle at the back of the MC Depot.

Members of Task Force Limbas went to the scene and even caught the suspects on camera siphoning a still undetermined quantity of LPG from the retired general's fuller tank truck.

Truck came from Subic!

Initial investigation revealed that the truck used by the five men was connected to TMMF Tube Transport Corp.

"But we are still verifying that information," Montesino said.

The suspects were later brought to Camp Crame where they will be charged with theft and violating Batas Pambansa 33, a special law on pilferage.

Children from Manila's underbelly kick up a storm ...

Front page A28

Grade experience, compared to the other groups, our scholars were the most applauded and became the darlings of the festival, with audiences giving them a standing ovation after every performance," Fabella said.

Weekly shows on Friday

The young dancers now perform every Friday on the center's outdoor stage, and in cultural events organized by the Manila City government.

The only FUSO, one can enjoy and experience an evening of Filipino folk songs and dances, and it goes with a special Filipino cuisine (snacks)," Fabella said, adding that proceeds from the show go to the center's foundation "to help other poor but deserving children."

Apart from enhancing his students' dancing abilities, Fabella said the training has another added benefit: it has raised their self-esteem.

"After a while, you can see how their grooming habits had changed. The way they carry themselves now is also different... how they walk, how they dress. They now exude confidence," he observed, saying that part of the training involves teaching the young dancers good grooming and proper manners.

Though there was a minor problem with discipline at first, that was eventually dealt with, Fabella added.

Most disciplined

"Children all are hard-wired but paid off because usually our principles not only form applaud but in performance but has also

as been cited as the most organized and most disciplined," he told the Inquirer.

Apart from the eight training held three times a week, the Quezon scholars also receive a transportation allowance, free uniforms and snacks.

New talents wanted

Every summer, Ehijat, Fabella and Perez look for new talents to develop.

"Some members drop out because they secure elsewhere, others because of commitment in school, but it's okay because we have been encouraging them to go back to school," Fabella said.

He proudly added that some of the most talented students of the center have joined some of the country's top ballet groups.

"It's very satisfying and gratifying for a teacher to know that our efforts are bearing fruit. But more important, it feels great knowing that these children were just ordinary kids with big dreams and they learned to pursue them," Fabella said.

E-mail us: global_pinoy@inquirer.com.ph

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and whomever work can be contracted to [illegible] into the far-flung beaches. These [illegible]

My life at sea

By Raymund D. Dizon

LAST JAN. 17, 11:05?? MANILA INTERNATIONAL Airport in Argentina with four other Filipinos to join a seismic vessel crew.

Working on a boat now seems part of my plans.

While still in college taking up a business degree, my goal was to work in a top 1000 company—since been broken and I work my way up to top management.

But the country's ever-worsening economy and the high cost of living in Manila made me think twice about the career path I had built in my mind.

In 20, nearly 10 years since graduating from college, and after having had a string of low-paying, dead-end jobs, I am now an Overseas Filipino Worker or what our government calls "Bagong Bayaning Hanapbuhay."

I have been hired as an assistant cook in the seismic vessel that does oil exploration in South America and Canada. (The ordinary cooks don't cook up while in between jobs back home cause in barely in any applications.)

You're probably wondering what a seismic vessel is (FYI, after all, are known to work on cargo vessels, barges, tankers, and the luxurious passenger vessels.

Seismic vessels, I learned, are boats that explore the sea

MY LIFE 4C8

Dizon (right) prepares barbecue chicken with "Tabay" inside the ship.

GlobeQUEST Offers Affordable PC-based Prepaid Calling Service

GlobeQUEST has come up with the country's first PC-based VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) service that utilizes traditional telephone prepaid cards to allow its prepaid and traditional users to save as much as 70 percent in international calls.

Dubbed as GlobeQUEST Web Phone, the prepaid calling service is available through any Internet-connected PC, particularly those with broadband connection. It can be used to call a landline and mobile phone anywhere in the country and abroad at very low rates.

For instance, calls to the top 10 most popular foreign destinations, namely, Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and USA, are mainly charged P4.50 or $0.088 per minute as compared to the traditional IDD rate of $0.48.

Thus, companies which require constant communication with business associates in the said countries can realize substantial savings if they use GlobeQUEST Web Phone, said Joyce C. Romero, GlobeQUEST head.

GlobeQUEST Web Phone is also targeted towards busy professionals who often have to work and make calls while mobile.

With their Wi-Fi (Wireless Fidelity) enabled laptops or PDAs (Personal Digital Assistants), executives, sales persons, journalists and other field workers can easily make e-call via the Internet via hundreds of GlobeQUEST Wireless Internet Zone (WIZ) hotspots scattered in strategic locations nationwide.

Reaching a Globe Handyphone (GHP) subscriber through an Internet-connected laptop or PDA only costs P4.50 per minute as compared to P6.50 per minute for mobile-originating calls.

GlobeQUEST Web Phone is being offered initially in tandem with the Globe prepaid card which can be purchased from any Globelines Payments and Services Center and from prepaid card retail outlets nationwide.

Globe I was designed as the first universal call card, to be used from any Globelines, Globe Handyphone or PH phone. However, the lowest IDD rates are currently applicable only to calls from Globelines.

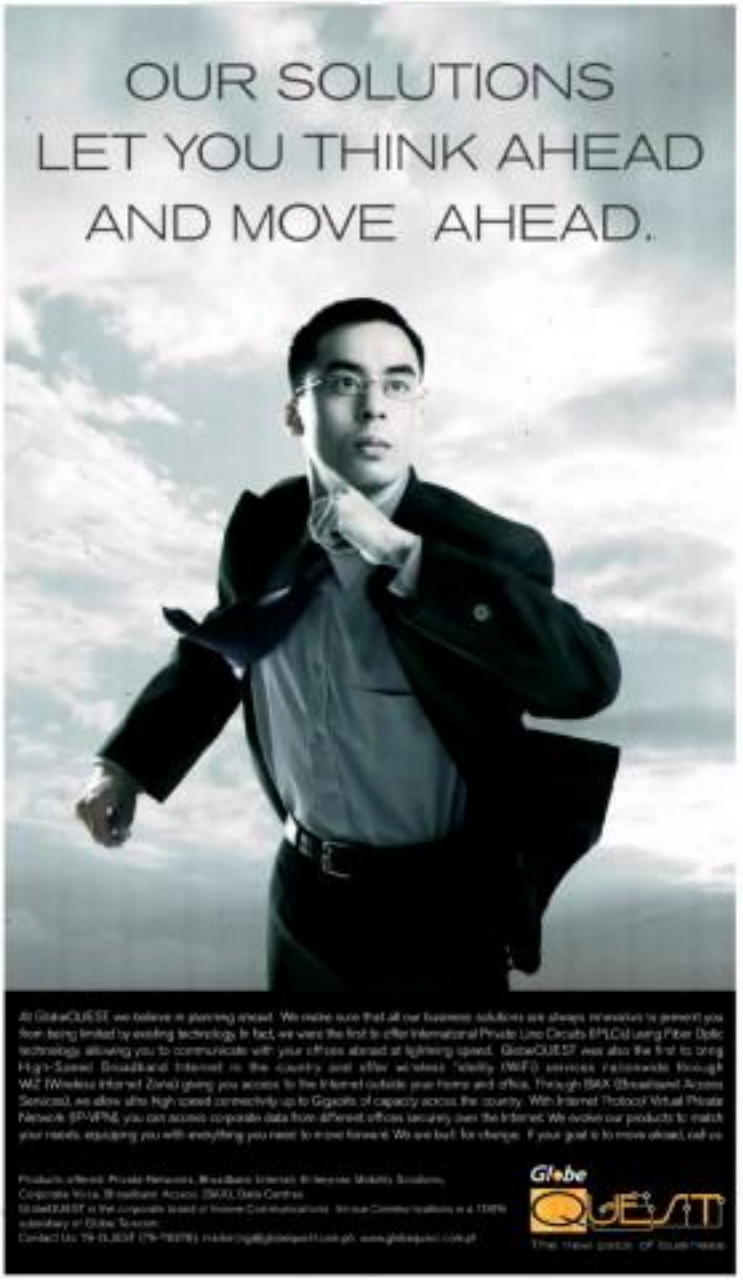
Thus, although the product has been growing in popularity, interested users in areas not covered by Globelines cannot avail of the lowest IDD rates, thereby, prompting the company to look for other ways to offer the service to a wider segment of the population.

"We do not expect GlobeQUEST Web Phone to totally replace regular phones in making IDD calls. However, there are a number of factors that may make people turn to it. First, GlobeQUEST Web Phone offers cheaper rates than regular landlines and mobile phones; second, it is available in prepaid, thus, more attractive to budget-conscious users; third, people are spending more time on the Internet, thus, they may want to place calls from there PCs; and lastly, with the growing number of road warriors, being able to work and make calls via their laptop and PDAs would be a plus factor," Romero said.

Unlike other popular Web-based programs provide free PC-to-PC international calls, he said that they are only available to subscribers who must be logged in at the same time.

Romero noted that although these Web-based programs offer a lower rate of around $0.02-$0.05 per minute for calls to the US from the Philippines as compared to the GlobeQUEST Web Phone rate of $0.08, they are only available via credit card and for a minimum load of around $10.

"Not everyone has a credit card and is willing to buy $20 worth of credit for international calls. This is where we come in. GlobeQUEST Web Phone offers convenience and accessibility, not to mention the cheapest IDD rates in the country today," he said.



'Why are there too many Pinoys here, Tatay?'

By Rob Custodio

AWARD-WINNING POP SINGER AND COMPOSER REY Valera found himself "cornered" and without a ready answer when, sometime in early 1998, his then teenage son Nikko asked him: "Why did your generation allow this to happen?"

Sa Aking Panahon

Ang sabi ng Ama mo, mahal ng kalikasan,
Pinagbiyayang-sinim, magkapatid ang kamalayan
Sa aking panahon may kinmalayang galak
Mayroong ligaya, pag-asa, kapayapaan
Mga bata'y may kaisipan, kaya pinangalagaan
Ang mga kaisipan ko ngayon, ito ang aking panahon
Ang mga kaisipan ko ngayon, ito ang aking panahon

Sabi ng Ama mo, ang mga Kano,
Hiyang-hiya ang mga tunay, ang mga Amerikano
Ang kanilang kaisipan ay kapwa'y kaaway
Ang kanilang kaligayahan ay sarili lang ang hanap
Hiyang-hiya ang mga tunay, ang mga Amerikano
Ang mga kaisipan ko ngayon, ito ang aking panahon
Ang mga kaisipan ko ngayon, ito ang aking panahon

Sa aking panahon ang ang mag-Sarili,
Ang sarili mapuri ng TV, mga idol ang kanilang hanap
Mga taong hungry magbubuntis na agad,
Pinagsisisihan ang kanilang kapusukan,
Ang mga taong walang trabaho ibinibintang sa gobyerno
At hindi na dapat ang pera, kahit mapuri ng pag-asa

Ito ang hiyain ko ngayon, ito ang aking panahon
Ang mga kaisipan ko ngayon, ito ang aking panahon
Ang mundo ko'y iba, ito ang aking panahon

(Ang mundo ko (ang mga) tao (kanta (Instrument),
Ito ang aking panahon

Are composing his dad on a three-year of Australia, Rey was just wondering why Filipinos in millions have been forced to leave their country in search of jobs, like they've become an burning up resistance for his father's concerns overseas.

The poet in Valera took several months to come up with a satisfactory explanation...in the medium he knew best.

"Sa Aking Panahon" ("In My Time"), he said, can be considered his letter to the Filipino youth who, like his children, are inheriting a country which previous generations chose to their parents seemed to have messed up.

Going abroad

The song vastly alludes to Nature's provision in the name of commerce (*kapitalismo* local word formulate), the 49-minute" so-called colonial "GI Joe" mentality and the moral decadence that has ruined and beleaguered into a lucrative trade and young kids into rapists.

But about a third of the lyrics tackle the brain drain (*After graduating! DP to America na po! Ito ang gusto ng mga bata!*) and lack of job opportunities that have driven many breadwinners to leave their families for "lands" and other "Blue land" lands.

The OPW phenomenon figured prominently in the composition because, in the first place, the whole song was inspired by the question Valera got from his son Nikko about the exodus of unemployed Filipinos.

"I left awkward and couldn't answer him," Valera told the listeners in a recent interview. Surely I could have just blamed everything on the government, but when he asked why my generation allowed all these to happen, I had nothing to say."

The father of four further confided that "Panahon" was written in reported in his life when he himself contemplated joining the ranks of OFWs.

In the late '90s, he said, he seriously thought of "trying it out for at least six months in the Middle East, see if I can uproot myself."

Last song

And he was not even that optimistic about making it to the US as a musician. "Maybe I can stand it and work there as a 'floor manager' (somebody who mops the floor) or a McDonald's crew member," he recalled. He might have spoken in half-jest, but at that instant Valera—a prolific lyricist in the '70s and '80s—sounded like any typical father with a growing family to support.

The next few years would see Valera holding down for Filipinos in the United States, but his plans to work or settle there did not push through.

"It's ironic that I still went my dad's dies to grow up in Filipino values," he said, referring to Nikko, now 20; Clarisse, 17; Loreta, 12; and Roberto, 21. "Materially, we may be feeling here in the Philippines), but now here we are still family oriented."

Questions for all

"I may have been frustrated with our country but ultimately it's not about (me and) things," he said.

"Panahon" was Valera's "last composition" for and about himself. He has written several more songs over the past several years but these were for his children's debut album as the group "Salingkan," show-fledgling attempt to follow their father's big footsteps in the music business.

With its provocative theme and lyrics, "Panahon" has never been released commercially in the wake of just Valera's chorus. It's hardly played on radio, but Valera has since made it part of his concert repertoire here as abroad. With each rendition of "Panahon," those four more familiar with his romantic ballads would be in for a little jolt.

Valera hoped that the song can convey his personal view "that just because I'm overseas but all of us have a hand in what we have become today. That is for the next generation, explaining what are all did in our time."

Why so many OFWs? Let Valer—and the rest of the youth—get an answer answer from an artist who minced no words, a father who worried about the future, and a Filipino who could still say "tatay" (I hope) through it all.

FAST FACTS

Composers, musicians, singers and other entertainers
(Employed in 2006)

Countries	Male	Female	Not stated	Total
Japan	196	12,354	4	12,554
South Korea	89	673		762
China	68	39		93
Hong Kong	34	7		41
Malaysia	15	10		25
UAE	8	8		16
Bahrain	6	3		9
Qatar	5	5		9
Diego Garcia (US territory)	1	0		1
St. Maarten		1		1
India	1	0		1
Oman	1	0		1
Taiwan		1		1
Singapore		1		1
TOTAL	427	13,101	4	13,532

Source: POEA

(c) Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Desperate husbands (and boyfriends, and other men)

By Isabel T. Escueta

THE MARIKINA ICHIC FROM THE 1980s, "How're you going to keep 'em down in the farm after they've seen Paris?" could well be rewritten today thus: "How're you going to keep them down in the bario after they've seen Hong Kong?" Some Filipina matrons entering the luxury hotel scene, now the new chinoy's "Special Administrative Region"), ostensibly as tourists, have over the years come in hopes of finding jobs. Many are as tellers in Hong Kong... nobody comes to the "Pearl of the Orient" to be a maid.

Countless recruitment agencies have long been doing a roaring trade sending domestics to those hubs around Asia, Europe, the US and the Middle East. But the South Pacific city, according to a recent story in Hong Kong, "has become second to the globe and an army of staff from the Philippines, India and Indonesia"). The exodus of Filipinas has means that countless children are being left to grow up in the hands of caregivers. And quite a few husbands, boyfriends and brothers left behind tend to feel demoralized, even desperate.

It's a truism that the Philippine economy is being kept afloat by remittances from the migrant workers, with women comprising most of those who've gone to work abroad. It was Corazon Aquino, after all, who first proclaimed the women "the nation's heroes"—a label that's more than over the years, being a sop for those forced to leave in order to survive. It's small comfort to be told one is performing something heroic when your government mismanages the economy and drives us to do so.

Going to Shenzhen

Increases today show that of the roughly 2,000 Filipino migrants leaving the country daily, 74 percent are women. The work apparently needs more brawn: sounds and statistics show it is more common for workers, women and drivers. The legacy this does to Pinoy male pride has resulted in many broken marriages as well as misdemeanors, even crimes, at home.

But there are some lucky ones who are crowned as Filipinas by their womenfolk abroad. They get to visit their female relatives in Hong Kong who help them gain employment themselves. There are many instances where the dominance here either persuaded their employers to sponsor a relative, or who have found other employers for their menfolk.

Those who cannot find employment for their husbands or other male relatives (it's much easier to place females) sometimes bring the men in as tourists. A wife can send a visiting letter for her husband to those at the Chinese Embassy in Manila stating that his wife has a valid contract and would like him to visit her briefly; he has to show a round trip ticket. Upon visiting a visa and arriving in Hong Kong, he is free to leave for China, where the immigration official who decides how long a visa is given. It may range from one to two months, or a week or two.

Should the man wish to stay longer than the visa expires, he will locate accompanies him to the immigration office where he is placed for an extension, which can usually good for a week or two. After that, if the man wants to stay a bit longer, he can hop on a train and cross the border into Shenzhen in mainland China.

The trip takes only an hour and the tourist from Hong Kong can spend a few hours in Shenzhen before heading back. He can spend a few hours shopping for bargains (if he's got some cash), then head back to the border and the train back to Hong Kong, where he again has to deal with the immigration officer. Luck plays a large role...a kindly official may grant an additional two weeks, but a suspicious one will give only a day or two, as even experts one back to Manila forthwith (if the passport shows multiple entries, which produces suspicions of illegal employment).

Male servants

This routine is fairly common among the Filipinas and their visiting male dependents. Two women who have brought over a husband and a boyfriend are Josie Ian and Lily Andin (not marked for a Chinese family for seven years, leaving behind her jobless husband Jesus and three children and Vanessa, while Lily left her Western bottle and her boyfriend for five years ago to work for a European businessman.

Josefina had occasionally asked her employers if any of their relatives needed a male servant. Luckily there was one who needed someone to help at a warehouse. But first they wanted to meet Rene, who arrived as a tourist (with all expenses paid by his wife). The interview turned out well, and Rene remained in Canton to assist in the warehouse by the Chinese firm on to Manila for his visa—all this took two months.

Lily's lover is a European businessman; no other details but this is family members.

Lily asked her ex-find Ann a job, but no one was interested in hiring a male. When her visa left her footage more, she suggested Lily invite her boyfriend as a tourist so they could spend time together. Jun, who helps his parents eke out a living in three small banana farm, was grateful to receive a letter from Lily, but she was unable to find him an employer.

When he was once expiring, she accompanied him to Shenzhen where he got an extension that let him stay longer (and earn a bit of money working part-time...which is actually illegal). He soon had to leave, but he was grateful for the chance to see a place like Hong Kong which yet lulled in the shadow him.

Once back in his barrio, he returned to exchanging one teenager with his sweetheart.

It's that how many others of the "women heroes" find solace from their self, and how they help diminish their men folk's desperation.

My life at sea

From page A17

for oil and minerals. They are hired by oil companies around the world.

Unlike passenger vessels, our boat is only 61 meters long and has a gross tonnage of 1,500.

It is a very small but tough boat, equipped with anti-rolling stabilizers which help us on rough seas.

My new colleagues and I finally arrived at the Pointe Noire airport after flying for more than 10 hours.

We had a whole day to rest and explore the city before finally boarding our boat. As we walked around, we found out that their base was Brazzaville, Congo. It was quite strange for me to be in a place where their base was Brazzaville, Congo. It was quite strange for me to be in a place where their base was Brazzaville, Congo. It was quite strange for me to be in a place where

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gozon

CIA boss Goss in stunning resignation

WASHINGTON—PORTER GOSS HAS ABRUPTLY resigned as CIA director, plunging the embattled US spy agency into new uncertainty as it seeks to rebuild from a series of intelligence failures in the war on terrorism and Iraq.

No reasons were given Friday for the resignation which was announced by President George W. Bush at the White House.

US media reports said Goss will be replaced by Air Force General Michael Hayden, the current principal deputy director of national intelligence.

Goss took over the Central Intelligence Agency in September 2004 on a mission to rebuild it after it faced a storm of criticism over the failure to detect the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist strikes and the information supplied to justify the invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

Bush, with Goss sitting next to him, paid tribute to the "energy, integrity and "honor" of the outgoing director.

"He has got a five-year plan to increase the number of analysts and operatives, which is going to help make this country a safer place and help us win the war on terror," Bush said, but offered a sense of professionalism."

Goss, who worked as a CIA agent himself for 16 years before going into politics, said he was leaving the agency standing on an "even keel."

But lawmakers have said Goss is leaving the fractious intelligence agency in turmoil.

Goss quickly became a controversial figure at the CIA for his hardline efforts to clamp down on leaks and create a more effective intelligence organization.

The agency is under an ethics cloud after its number three official, executive director Kyle "Dusty" Foggo, became the subject of a CIA inspector General investigation. It was not clear however whether a link exists between the probe and the resignation of Goss.

Speaking on CBS television Friday, former Congressman Bob Barr said the ethics charges, which reportedly involve ties to an alleged prostitution ring, may never fly.

"I think there's going to be more coming out. We don't know the whole story," Barr said.

"It's starting to reach into the CIA," said Barr who described the addressing scandal as "being like a sore that's been festering, that could very well burst on and maybe that's a reach into the top levels of the agency."

Although he declined that Goss was directly involved, Barr said that the scandal "certainly reflects on the leadership."

The agency has been demoralized by widespread criticism of its efforts to assess worldwide terror threats from Islamic terrorists, the insurgency in Iraq, the return of the Taliban in Afghanistan, and other global threats.

The CIA director's position, historically one of the most influential in Washington, was essentially lost (powerful) during Goss's tenure because of reforms imposed by the US Congress to reshape intelligence operations.

Bush named John Negroponte as director of national intelligence in charge of all 16 US intelligence agencies, including the CIA.

Goss's efforts to refocus the agency have been criticized by opponents. Democratic lawmakers and especially hit on the resignations of key officials, including deputy CIA director John McLaughlin in November 2004.

His shakeup also led to the departure of the CIA official who oversaw foreign operations, deputy director of operations Stephen Kappes, and several other senior clandestine service officers. AFP

GOSS: No successor yet

A DARFUR girl waits to be registered at The Gaga refugee camp in eastern Chad May 3. After three deadlines for a deal passed, the biggest of three Darfur rebel factions and the Sudanese government signed a peace agreement on Friday but two other rebel factions rejected the deal, casting doubt on whether it would be workable. REUTERS

Joy, mixed with concern, as Darfur rebel faction signs peace agreement

ABUJA, NIGERIA—THE SHOUTS of joy could not drown out concerns that the latest pledge of peace in Sudan's impoverished Darfur region would fail as past accords have, despite unprecedented international involvement.

Appointed and drawn sounded Friday as Sudan's government and the main rebel group signed a peace agreement and then processed to initial each of its 85 pages. The hall in a Nigerian presidential villa was filled with multilateral leaders in white turbans, fighters in camouflage uniforms, diplomats and journalists.

While the main rebel group signed the document, two others rejected it, expressing concerns security and compensation that was victims had not been guaranteed and because it called for a top presidential adviser from Darfur instead of a vice president.

Optimism was muted by the two groups' absence and by a history of failure to live up to past agreements.

Members of the Darfurian rebel camps are united in accusing Sudan's central government of neglecting their impoverished western region, but divided because of leadership rivalries and differing approaches.

The peace deal was backed by the African Union, the United States, Britain, the European Union and the Arab League. It calls for a ceasefire, disarmament of militias linked to the government and arrested of some of the war's worst atrocities, the integration of thousands of rebel fighters into Sudan's armed forces and a protection force for civilians in the immediate aftermath of the war.

Political provisions include assurances that rebel factions will have the majority in Darfur's three state legislatures, though the rebels did not get the national vice presidency they had sought.

US deputy secretary of State Robert Zoellick indicated that two rebel groups that did not sign the accord would be bypassed, in an assistance bolstered when one of the groups split Friday, with dissenters criticizing their leader for not embracing the treaty. Zoellick said implementing the agreement would be a challenge, but said he was looking ahead to organizing a UN peacekeeping force for Darfur.

US President George W. Bush intervened during the difficult negotiations, sending a letter to the largest rebel group, Minni Minnawi, with assurances that the US would strongly support implementation of the peace accord, assist monitoring compliance, hold donor not compounding accountable and support a dynamic conference for Darfur. Zoellick told Washington reporters by telephone.

Zoellick said he read the letter to the assembled parties during the night.

The Sudanese government initially rejected calls for UN peacekeepers to replace the thousands of African Union peacekeepers now in Darfur, but indicated Friday it would yield once the peace treaty was signed. AP

WORLD BRIEFS

Aussie miners within meters of rescue

WAGGRAVE, Australia—The effort to free two Australian gold miners trapped underground for 11 days entered its most delicate—and dangerous—phase on Saturday, as rescuers completed work using a giant drill and prepared to use the last few meters of excavation tunnel by hand. Matthew Gill, manager of the Beaconsfield Gold Mine said rescuers were now within 3 meters of Brant Webb, 31, and Todd Russell, 34, and had finished boring through solid rock with a giant drilling machine. Officials have indicated they likely will have to spend another eight hours underground. AP

Suharto still bleeding

SUHARTO

JAKARTA, Indonesia—Former Indonesian dictator Suharto's condition remained unstable Saturday due to "dangerous" low blood pressure, forcing doctors to stop giving him fluids intravenously, one of his doctors said. The bleeding has reduced the levels of hemoglobin, or red blood cells, carrying oxygen to the 84-year-old Suharto's brain, heart, kidneys and lungs, said Dr. Ichsan Hidayat, one of 20 specialists monitoring the former leader's condition. "We are worried about the lack of oxygen," Hidayat told reporters. "The blood-carrying amino acid agar is dangerous." Suharto was admitted to Pertamina Hospital in the capital, Jakarta, on Thursday evening after complaining of feeling weak. Another case facing prosecutors involving fund diversion used Suharto, who ruled the world's fourth-most populous nation for 32 years, has suffered health problems since he was ousted amid massive street demonstrations in 1998, hampering attempts to prosecute him on multimillion-dollar corruption charges. AP

Singaporeans vote in general election

SINGAPORE—Singaporeans cast their votes Saturday in a general election seen as a referendum on Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who was seeking his first mandate as head of government against computerized opposition. After an unusually virulent campaign, some 1.7 million voters in the politically regimented city-state were eligible to cast their ballots for 84 contested seats from a field of 94 in polls. Results were expected by late Saturday. The right-wing People's Action Party (PAP), in power since 1965, has already won 37 uncontested seats, and needs just six more to form the majority in the 4th most legislature. It held all but two of the seats in the former British colony's last parliament. AP

Autopsy ties boy's death to boot camp

ANDERSON

ATLANTA, Ga.—Anderson, a 14-year-old boy who died in January a day after entering a boot camp in northwest Florida, died from suffocation and not sudden cardiac arrest, a new autopsy released Friday concluded. The initial autopsy by the medical examiner in Bay County, Florida concluded that the boy must died from sickle cell trait, a condition of sickle cell trait disorder, a video that showed guards at the boot camp breaking him. But Dade Attorney Mark Blutt, who was appointed by Gov. Jeb Bush to investigate Martin's death, ordered a new autopsy. The medical examiner's autopsy results, had also not made any arrests on Friday and said in a statement that he was unable to finish running laps. The beating was captured on tape. AFP

Terror attack on transport seen unstoppable

VIENNA—AFTER LAST YEAR'S London transport bombings, experts meeting at a pan-European forum in Vienna said Friday that it was all but impossible to make public transport safe from terror attack.

The heretical dissent is a "growing reason for concern" after attacks on the Moscow subway in 2004 that killed 41 people and on the London Underground in 2005 to which 52 died, plus four suicide bombers, said Andrea Soellenbeck.

Soellenbeck, of the International Union of Public Transportation (UITP), was speaking at a conference here of the 55-nation Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

A sarin gas attack in Tokyo in 1995 left 12 people dead and contaminated 5,000 passengers.

"The only cross-national system where security can be guaranteed is a closed system, something that is incompatible with public transportation which by its nature must be as open as possible," she said.

Such a transportation carries 150 million people a day worldwide, 30 times more than travel by air. It is not an option to search all passengers as this would be impossible, according to the UITP which represents 2,500 operators in 90 countries.

The United States is testing machines to detect radioactivity, explosives and chemical substances being carried by people traveling.

But these technologies are expensive and criminal more research is needed, Soellenbeck said.

"Using them widely would require huge investment that would take money away from improving public transportation systems," she added.

Shaik Cairo, a security official for the Paris public transportation system RATP said: "It is almost impossible to prevent an attack by someone who is prepared to lose his life."

"It is much easier to reinforce security daily for passengers."

The RATP which carries 10 million trips a day, has put cameras in all its buses and trains to increase by the end of 2007 the number of cameras in its subway lines 1,800 to 5,000 at a cost of 91 million euros ($113.4 million), Cairo told AFP.

French officials have been in operation by British counterparts in setting a video monitoring system to identify the attackers in the London underground.

Such a system would in Paris film all passengers and would require the installation of an additional 4,500 cameras, an operation that would cost 60 millions euros, Cairo said.

"But it is an important problem that are not insoluble more both technically and economically," he said.

The RATP budget of 1.5 million euros a years has not budged for 10 years.

Still, French authorities claim they foiled two terrorist attacks in 1995 and 1996.

Authorities point out that police intelligence operations are needed to fight terrorism, more than anything systems with surveillance machines.

"The fight against terrorism is not the job of public transportation workers, whose task is to transport people," Soellenbeck said. AFP

Rep. Kennedy seeks drug rehab treatment

KENNEDY

WASHINGTON—REP. PATRICK J. Kennedy said Friday that he was seeking treatment for addiction to prescription medicines after he crashed his car into a traffic barrier on Capitol Hill, in the latest crisis for one of America's storied political families.

Kennedy, a six-term Democratic congressman from Rhode Island, said he had entered rehabilitation in the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

The congressman said he did not remember any details of the accident, which occurred shortly before 3 a.m. on Thursday, but he said, "I do know enough to know that I need help."

At a news conference on Capitol Hill, Kennedy, the son of late Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, gave his account of the crisis that has engulfed his family. He appeared shaken. His voice cracked at times as he read a statement.

"I simply do not remember getting my car out back, being pulled over by the police or being cited for three driving infractions," Kennedy said. "That's not how I want to live my life, and it's not how I want to represent the people of Rhode Island."

Kennedy, 38, said he had been leaving Friday en route to the Mayo Clinic. He disclosed that he had been warned there in December by what he described as "addiction to prescription pain medication." He said that he came back to Congress this year "recognized and healthy." But he said he had suffered a recurrence of the "addiction problem"—"a chronic condition for which I'm taking full responsibility." AFP

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Sunday SPORTS

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Tuñacao retains OPBF crown via TKO

By Recah Trinidad

TOKYO—MALCOLM TUÑACAO TURNED boss-counterfeit to threaten to drop Japan's Shuzo Kijima in the 12th round to retain his Oriental Pacific Boxing Federation bantamweight crown Saturday night.

Tuñacao, the former WBC flyweight champion, dominated the one-sided bout and displayed fancy ringcraft while outhustling an unanswered Bury that forced the referee to halt the bout.

The vastly-experienced Tuñacao was enjoying a punishing phase but lost the fourth round when he became careless and got tagged with a combination to the head.

After slugging it inside and allowing the fight to drag, Tuñacao flashed his old dazzling form close to the end of the 11th.

Meanwhile, after days of bright weather, there was forecast of rain here Saturday night as Rodel Mayol entered the ring as a kid in because the four reigning Filipino world boxing champions.

The celebrated Manny Pacquiao, a no-show here, holds the WBC International super featherweight crown conferred for honors ranked 11th and lower by the world body.

Mayol had a tank almost Friday (but found it upon embodiment Saturday morning) to bounce to a hefty 118 flyweight (112 lbs), after tipping the scales at 126.5 lbs in Friday's weigh-in.

Mayol told the locusts he took extra steps to control his pounds for the fight so there would also time shorts.

Rigged in the endering, Mayol, 26, said he's in the best form of his career and has sparred over 100 rounds for Eagle Gyms.

"Mapanok sana kung dumating ng si Ajan Manny. Or sinabi ve buen gran il boss Manny kasi sana," Mayol told the locusts.

The staff of Sen. Manoka, he's with him, had invited sens to prepare Pacquiao's plane ticket and travel papers ready for a flight here Friday, but the 30 boxing hero failed to see he.

Sen "Nikki" Sokal, a Pacquiao confidante, had to apologize to reporters on behalf of the boxing ace who reportedly overslept after a game of basketball in Jordan Thursday.

Among those expected to root for Mayol at tonight's United and Asian-style Kenji Arai Hakuei, who failed to attend the all-important weigh-in Friday.

"Gusto namin hindi lang hanggang TV ang sightseeing."

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'di ba, ang lakas mo sa Globe

Bata trips Django, gains semis

FILIPINO PUGILIST JUAN EFREN "BATA" Reyes beat boxing buddy Francisco "Django" Bautista unan., 9-5, in the quarterfinals of the San Miguel Asian 8-Ball Tour yesterday at the Rizal on Tv Sports Hall at the Club Filipino City Greenhills.

After topping their respective brackets during the eliminations round last Friday, the two are amateurs, playing under the auspices of SF billiards parlor Istetoc. "Bata" Reyes was headed against each other in the final night of the annual event organized by ESPN Star Sports.

Reyes advanced to the semifinals where he will meet the winner of the quarterfinal duel between reigning Asian champion Fang Chung Hsun of Chinese Taipei and local bet Nguyen Phuc Long.

For making it to the semifinals, Reyes is already assured of $3,000 while the tournament medalist $1,750.

Also cruising on to the final four is Li Ho Wen of China. Li bested countryman Jin Sheng, 9-5. He will face off against Wang Hung Hsiang of Chinese Taipei. Wang defeat Nguyen Phuong Thao of Hanoi, 9-5.

REYES

Solar earns right to air World Cup

FULFILLING ITS VISION OF BRINGing the biggest events to the world to Philippine households, Solar Entertainment Corp. solidified award-winning status by securing the broadcast rights of the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany.

Filipino sports fans can welcome the quest for the 18th World Cup of the best popular sport in the world on free-to-play starting June 9.

"This World Cup is the most anticipated sporting event of the season, and we will not let our viewers to miss it," said Peter Chumbing, chief operating officer of Solar Entertainment Corp.

Local football fans can also expect more than halfs of the World Cup from through the "Sportsplus World Cup Goals Coverage."

The football festival, organized by Solar Entertainment Corp. and by World Cup project manager Infostrada Germany, is slated to screen weekends leading to the World Cup.

"Football is a global sport and World Cup is like a celebration of humanity. Through this 'Sportsplus World Cup Goal Coverage' we look forward to with the world," said Cosmos.

It started last week in the Water from Brands in Italia in cooperation with the Philippine Football Federation of the Philippines (PFF) headed by Mike Arbali and Ben Alle and DMSA.

EE BEWLEY's Jordyn Barratta and Faith Ann de Guzman jubilate after beating the UP's Pandesal.

Alvarez tops 2nd kart leg

KICKING JUNIOR KARTER OF the Year John Manny translated an other impressive performance recently in the second leg of the 2006 Shell Colt Sportkarting series at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

Alvarez put up a fierce fight against Jarel Theodore car duels were to the finish line before eeding to runner up in the KOK Junior class.

Posting a best lap time of 1:19.706, he wrapped up the 12-lap race in 14:46.486 to just 0.278 second behind Theodore.

It was another exciting event for Alvarez who's hardest up by Hennessee Insurance, Prestige Cast BMW Limited and Thunder Energy Drinks. He actually mastered fifth on the grid of the second heat following a disappointing turnout in the first race. Determined, he passed one driver after another and wrested the No. 2 spot on the finish.

With Chief Engineer Jed Nool doing a good job on his engine, Alvarez later showed nerves of steel as he engaged John Serafica in neck-to-neck battle for the lead during the first 10 laps.

Serafica was booted out of the race following a collision with Al Vasco, who later found himself ranging behind.

He rounded the final and opposed Serafica to victory after managing the last turn lineup to get the latter back with this-rated finishers at the main straight going to the finish line.

SPORTSWATCH

Banaag Grandmaster of Sikaran

FILIPINO GRANDMASTER PUNAY DIEGO C. BANAAG (KICKS ANOTHER RECORD) is his run after he was awarded by the prestigious 2006 Bantayan Award of Excellence as the "Philippine Grandmaster of Sikaran" held recently at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Los Angeles, California. A 1999 degree holder, Banaag's case in point is a professional orthopedic surgeon in the Orange County, California. He is also a Sikaran Instructor of Arnis, Inc. (AIA), which officially recognized the Sikaran globally. It was the third time for Banaag, previously founder of Global Sikaran Federation and current chairperson of the Sikaran Arnis Open Series for six months. It was also by the USA. Manila Arts Hall of Fame. "Our goal is to promote sikaran and how the Filipino could be a contender at Lucchon 42 years old Banaag, who also was recognized by the Pan PLA Manila Arts Hall of Fame as the "Sikaran of Sikaran" in 2004. On last 14 and 15 Banaag, in coordination with Major Joseph Hernandez at Marsang, will hold the 2006 Sikaran World Grand Cup Open Martial Arts Festival at the University of West Sydney at Marsang Road.

ARCHERY WINNERS: QC Councilor Bimi Inson raises the hands of novice gold medalist Bianca Carbonero (right) and silver winner Erika Crespo during the awarding ceremony of the recent National Archery Association of the Philippines age group event at the Rizal Coliseum.

Light flyweight bout in Fistarama

FIFTEEN FIGHTERS SLUG IT OUT THIS SATURDAY AT EXCITING FISTARAMA

Local boxers Clemente Gamba and Michael Fistelgarn in the light flyweight division. The fight was part of the fight card presented by Edgardo "Boy" Garbanzo recently held at Bagtikan Boys part of Bagtikan Foundation under Australian Fistarama by Chavit Singson. MEDALLISTS: Chad Mateo (Diamond Pins) bested Fil Lad (White) Duff Power Pins with 42 pins.

Velasco Swim Camp ongoing

FORMER NATIONAL CHAMPION MICHAEL "DALOY" VELASCO IS HOLDING A swimming camp from May 1 to June 3 at the Ynares Sports Cultural Sports Center. Formerly Rizal Resident Doctor Ynares Hospital, individuals and groups interested can register from Monday to Friday (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and Saturdays (7-11 a.m.). Interested parties may contact Shalyn at 920-0480. Velasco, a veteran of the 2004 Asian Olympic qualifiers, dropped out of competition for two decades. They can be found at the pool side swimmers at Miriam College was named MVP for the MEAA and Women's Collegiate Sports Association after winning six gold medals in both leagues.

LPC special cockfest today

A SPECIAL 3-COCK DERBY WITH 10-4 WINNER'S CIRCLE FORMAT GETS UNDER way at the lofty air-conditioned Las Pinas Coliseum as 7 straight-win novice fighters from the Money Load and Real Match arms pegged the derby fee at P1,000. Substitution of handlers is valid 1 p.m. today. Drawn of the 3-cock battle of cockmasters Rodrigo Roa Jr. Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., Jeffrey Tam, Ramon Ang, Manny Pangilinan, Enrique Razon, Lucio Co, Tony Boy Cojuangco and Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. P5,000 for an entry level P1,000 for rookie, call 872-7000 and 851-8000.

Runner anniversary run up

RUNNER ORGANIZER EXECUTIVES INITIATE IN CONCURRENCE FUN run, will commemorate its 23rd Anniversary with the staging of a 10K and 5K foot race in Quezon City today. Dubbed as the Runner, Fun Anniversary Run, the event, backed up by Powerbar and Pharmaton, is slated to begin at 6 a.m., in front of the Philippine Building of the University of the Philippines, in Diliman. For inquiries, call 920-4080, 920-4082 or 0917-5581-0000.

Heritage Cup awarding rites May 12

THE GRANDSLAM AWARDING IN THE PHILIPPINE HERITAGE CUP 2006 SERIES OF golf tournaments will be held on May 12 at the Manila Golf and Country Club. Slated to start at 10:00 a.m. the awarding ceremonies will be held at the Clubhouse. Heritage Cup Series Director Ms. Lilia Tan said that the top 10 players in the Grandslam Race to Manila will be awarded trophies and cash prizes. Tan said that the top 10 players in the Grandslam Race to Manila will be awarded trophies and cash prizes. Tan said that the top 10 players in the Grandslam Race to Manila will be awarded trophies and cash prizes.

Daymiel sweeps JVC regional titles

DEFENDING NATIONAL CHAMPION DAYMIEL ESPINOSA WAS CLOSE IN THE DRIVE EXCEPT THE JVC Cebu Regional Championships by winning three titles, including the men's division crown in the centerpiece elite division at the Wheels Golf Resort Badminton Center. Friday. Daymiel, playing as part of Wheels Cebu, defeated Sports Center's Angelo Mabao in the two-set senior badminton score 21-15, 15-10 victory for the men's pairs in the elite category. Daymiel then teamed up with Lucky Lee to beat the duo of Pedro Chiyoko and Mabao, 21-13, 21-17, and claim the men's doubles crown before capping his race with a victory in the mixed doubles with Sinclair Gandeza.

Adamson duo cops men's volley crown

By Marvey R. Castillo

ROSOLOY ISLAND, AKLAN—ADAMSON'S MICHAEL AZNAR (NORTH) and Mervin Dimaano ended a lone' dream run in the morning and completed a one of their own yesterday afternoon by winning the men's division of the 10th Nestea Beach Volley championships.

Dimaano (Mervin dimaano) (no-) and Aznar (Michael Aznar)

Bulls battle Phone Pals

CARLA Sarino spikes the ball during the Pro-ves Beach Volleyball at the Baywalk in Manila.

Soaring Lady Falcons eye 4th straight win

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  MAY 8 (Hotel Philippine Plaza)
- **1st AAP INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**
  MAY 10 (Valley Golf & Country Club)
- **AAP GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
  MAY 11 (The Forum, PICC)
- **1st AAP AUTO SHOW**
  MAY 12-14 (The Forum, PICC)
- **FAST LANE: AAP BOOK LAUNCH**
  MAY 12 (The Forum, PICC)
- **CAR CLUBS HERITAGE DISPLAY**
  MAY 12-14 (Road 4, Forum, PICC)
- **4 x 4 COMPETITION**
  MAY 13 (Boom Grounds, CCP Complex)
- **DENSO KARTING CHAMPIONSHIP**
  MAY 14 (Kart Trak, Boom Grounds, CCP Complex)
- **AAP MOTORSPORTS AWARDS**
  MAY 14 (Forum 1, PICC)

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Cavs nip Wizards in OT

Jones buries series-winner; Spurs oust Kings

WASHINGTON—WITH HIS TEAM down by one in the last 15 seconds, Cleveland Cavaliers star LeBron James approached the Wizards' Gilbert Arenas, who was on the stripe trying to add to Washington's one-point lead.

CLEVELAND'S LeBron James (right) talks to Washington's Gilbert Arenas before the latter's crucial free throw. AP

"You take both of those free throws and the game is over," James warned his mates moments.

Arenas dribbled both irons and James' words—with a little help from someone else. Hearing James' counsel out to be prophetic.

Arenas hit a long jumper from the right corner with 4.8 seconds remaining to lift Cleveland into the Eastern Conference semis with a 114-113 overtime win over Washington in Game 6 of their series.

"It is all about opportunities," James said. "I told those guys it is going to be a long game. Just double teamed LeBron (James) and I was table open. Thank God it went in."

All-Star James collected 32 points, seven rebounds and seven assists as the fourth-seeded Cavaliers won their first playoff series since 1993, setting up a matchup with the two-time defending Eastern Conference champion and top-seeded Detroit Pistons.

"It took me two years to get to get here and I didn't want to waste here and just be happy to get into the playoffs," James said.

Hardly used throughout the series, Jones was inserted into the game for Drew Gooden with 1:26 to play and trailing, 113-112, with 14 seconds left and his team-rebounding post-juice ball count.

Larry Hughes took the inbounds pass and quickly got the ball to James, who was immediately double-teamed by the Jared Jeffries and Arenas.

Sensing the pressure, James passed the ball on the right sideline to Hughes, who flipped it to Jones for the clutch jumper.

Without any illusions, the Washington scored the ball upcourt and got a good look, but Caron Butler's 3-pointer beat the right wing hit the game for the Cavs.

Cleveland built a 107-104 advantage in regulation after Arenas' sank two free throws with 19.9 seconds remaining.

Arenas, who finished with 26 points on 11-of-27 shooting, had the ball stripped out of his hands and out of bounds after sizing up the scary. However, he caught the ensuing inbounds more than seven feet behind the 3-point line and sank the shot to force overtime.

In the extra session, Arenas had a chance to add to a 113-112 lead for Washington with 35 seconds left but failed from free throws.

In Sacramento, California, Tony Parker scored 35 points as the Spurs advanced to the Western Conference semifinals with a 101-83 win over the Kings in Game Six of their series.

"I was closer on doing the best job we could defensively and paying attention to detail," Spurs forward Bruce Bowen said.

Bowen contributed 16 points and Tim Duncan 15 for the top-seeded San Antonio, which has advanced in the playoffs for the 10th time in the last 11 seasons.

"The defending champion Spurs will host the fourth-seeded Dallas Mavericks in Game One on Wednesday.

Mike Bibby scored 19 points and Bonzi Wells added 17 points for Sacramento, which got little production from its eighth-and-ninth starters, which gave the host in the West, as it could have this obviously was doomed by 40 percent shooting, to go along with 20 turnovers. AFP

• NBA at USAH SPORTS
LA Lakers vs. Phoenix 7 p.m. today on 4 & 9 p.m.

JONES: Clutch

SAN ANTONIO'S Manu Ginobili attempts a dunk against Sacramento's Brad Miller. AP

'Dog-trained' Ronaldinho has World Cup's spotlight focused on him

SALVADOR, BRAZIL—HE LEARNED his first moves with the help of a mixed-breed dog named Bombom. Today he is the best soccer player in the world, praised by Pele and Diego Maradona.

All eyes will be on Ronaldinho when the 2006 World Cup begins next month.

Ronaldinho's player will attract as much attention as the Brazilian midfielder during the month-long tournament in Germany—thanks to his silky skills and dazzling moves. And to Bombom.

"He loved to play with me," Ronaldinho said. "When all my friends got bored, I would go play with him.

"We would stay batting for the ball all day. I had to wash hard-scrapy trousers to keep him from getting the ball."

Bombom—and a soccer ball—were by Ronaldinho's side at all times as he grew up in a poor family in the southern Brazilian city of Porto Alegre, at a time when he didn't even dream of playing in a World Cup.

"We were inseparable, he and my great companion," Ronaldinho said of Bombom, which means "chocolate candy" in Portuguese.

And when Bombom wasn't available, Ronaldinho would find other opponents to test his skills.

"When it was raining, I would stay inside the house and things got chaotic and children ran," he said. "I also spent a lot of my time on a kit with a soccer ball. That helped me become good at it."

Now 26 and in his prime, Ronaldinho will enter the World Cup as the tournament's biggest star.

He has won the last two FIFA player of the year awards, and has led FC Barcelona to two consecutive Spanish league titles and to the Champions League final.

How dozens his status as the best player in the world.

Maradona said recently that Ronaldinho is in a different class from other players, and that it's "fun to watch him play."

His celebrations his scorer's post just as highly, saying Ronaldinho is the player who gives fans "the most joy."

Ronaldinho—his last name is his only name—has his own unique skills and crafty tricks—from the no-look pass to the "elastic" dribble, in which he flicks the ball from one foot to the other and back during a full stride at the outer wing.

"He always trying to invent new things," he said recently. "But my goal is to win the World Cup again, I really don't care about giving a show or scoring a lot of goals."

Ronaldinho—called "Dinho" by his friends—goes for a second straight world title—and sixth overall. He either scored or has more than three in the last two World Cups in Japan and South Korea, playing five matches and scoring two goals. AP

Rain stalls Wie's charge in Korea

PICTON, SOUTH KOREA—Play in the Asian Women's Golf Classic Open was called off Saturday due to heavy rain, postponing Michelle Wie's first third-round in a professional men's tournament.

The Korean-born teenager made her first cut in a men's tournament Friday after shooting rounds of 70 and 69 at the Sky 72 Golf Club outside to sit at 5-under at the halfway mark and tied for 17th.

Several players started the third second Saturday morning before rain-related rain fee and thunderstorms arrive. Wie was at the tee when the course was called a delay of almost three hours, course to officials declared the course unplayable, with many holding heavily-waterlogged.

The tournament is now shortened to three rounds, organizers said, and play is scheduled to resume Sunday with Jane Seol of Malaysia and Penny Shwasaree of Thailand holding the lead at 11-under.

Despite the disruption, Wie remained focused on her game when she left after play.

"All my ex play another good solid round. I will try my hardest like I've been doing," she said. "If I play well, there's great. If I don't with that's OK."

The All Tohoku Open is the eighth men's professional event for Wie. AP

WIE: Tied for 17th

CHINA'S Zhang Ning (right) and Qiu Xinghong hold up the trophy.

China bags 5th Uber title

TOYO—RUNAWAY FAVORITES CHINA thrashed the Indian hosts, 3-0, to claim their fifth consecutive Uber Cup on Saturday.

Play 16 No. 1 Zhang Ning spent Sunday's Olympic's charge by edging star Indonesian host Mia Audina, 21-18, 19-21, 21-16, in the opening rubber of the Tokyo badminton final.

Xie Xingfang, the world No. 2, beat Judith Meulendijks, 21-17, 21-16, and Jiang Yanjiao completed the whitewash with a 21-9, 21-7 victory over Rachel ten Cumme.

"I got a lot anxious crying to finish it off when I was up 19-16 in the second game," Zhang told reporters after repeating her way over Indesa in the 2004 Athens Olympic final rubber of finals.

"I dominated a lot of drop shots into the net but I managed to cut out the mistakes after that and I think that was the key for me."

Xie consolidated China's 1-0 lead with a tough win over Meulendijks but she was forced to come back from 13-7 down in the second game.

It was China's 14th overall title in the women's world team championships. They also won five in a row between 1988 and 1992. Reuters

Friends, family say g'bye to Earl Woods

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA—Friends and relatives came to the Tiger Woods Learning Center on Friday to privately remember Earl Woods, the golf star's father who died this week after a long battle with prostate cancer.

Earl Woods was best known for the impact he had on his son, who began taking balls at age 2 after watching his father practice his swing in the family's garage. He died on Wednesday at his Cypress home. He was 74.

Woods was cremated in the cremation and services after the burial at a cemetery in Cyprus. Those who came included NBA great Charles Barkley, LPGA Tour commissioner Ty Votaw, Nike chairman Phil Knight, U.S. Ryder Cup player Fred Couples, Gabrielle Reece and her husband, pro surfer Laird Hamilton.

Limousines delivered Tiger Woods, his wife, Elin, and his mother, Tida. Police escorted the parties to a public footpath about 10 feet from the entrance to the center.

Earl Woods, who was more determined to raise a good son than a great golfer, was the driving force behind Tiger Woods' phenomenal career.

A stroke who had heart surgery in 1996, Earl Woods was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1998 and was treated with radiation. But the disease returned in 2004 and spread throughout his body.

His last tournament he attended was the Target World Challenge in December 2004, when his son visited to visit and then donated $1.25 million to the Tiger Woods Foundation that his father helped him establish. AP

Schumacher: I need help against Alonso

SILVERSTONE, ENGLAND—SEVEN-winning Sunday's European Grand Prix will not be enough for Michael Schumacher, he would like some help from other drivers to catch championship leader Fernando Alonso.

Schumacher leads the world championship by 31 points after four races.

"I think there would be a few other drivers up there fighting to win at the moment who could take some importance points away.

"But it doesn't look like this is the case," the 37-year-old German told reporters on Friday.

Schumacher won last month's San Marino Grand Prix ahead of Alonso to make up ten points on the Spaniard but at this pace it would take him eight races before to catch Renault's championship leader. There are 14 races left.

"I'm reasonably happy with the car," and Schumacher, who finished behind Alonso in Friday's afternoon practice.

"It looks like we'll be competitive. If we get everything 100 percent right, I think we've got a chance to win," the seven-time champion added. "Alonso the West was better in both Friday's sessions for Williams, but the Austrian had driven still not fast enough."

Alonso has finished in the top four in all grands prix so far this season. Reuters

SCHUMACHER

TRAIN on his reputation, Ricardo Mayorga (right) shows no respect for Oscar De La Hoya during the weigh-in.

De La Hoya ready for match vs 'nuttiest' foe

LAS VEGAS—RICARDO MAYORGA SMOKED cigarettes in the ring after particularly satisfying rounds. "El Matador" wasn't trafficking outside before his fights, and he revels in insulting his opponents' families, challenging their ethnicities and questioning their sexual orientations.

In short, the former Nicaraguan gang member is one of the nastiest men in a profession's professions. And he's likely to be so tomorrow night when Oscar De La Hoya, the cultured epitome of humiliable Beautiful—except a desire for a cut—was overlooking into when they meet in Las Vegas on Saturday.

De La Hoya's serious anger to be back in the boxing ring after a 20-month absence since his ninth-round knockout loss to Bernard Hopkins in September 2004. The Golden Boy is confident he can accomplish in a long, frequently spectacular career, but he seems determined to fight at least two more times before devoting himself fully to his various business outside the ring.

So why would De La Hoya risk his health and reputation against Mayorga, of all people? Perhaps it's exactly because Mayorga is just the type of fighter who would insult De La Hoya's wife and Latino heritage, filling any motivational gaps for a fighter who already does everything.

"He's done his job already," De La Hoya said. "He's made me mad already as I said, so I can't be motivated [or already to be the best fighter] I can be, so there's no way I can fall in whatever kind of trouble's trying to involve me.

"I already have my plan of attack. I already have my game plan set, so whatever little games he's trying to play it's not going to work on."

De La Hoya (37-6, 29 KOs) has maintained his usual workout routine and is largely unconcerned by avoiding any of the fun and trouble that will on any fights. De La Hoya says he'll stand toe-to-toe with Mayorga (26-5-1, 23 KOs) at the MGM Grand, trading power punches for the WBC light middleweight title. AP

Ozamiz keeps clean record

OZAMIZ CITY—KEEPING ITS LIST STAINLESS (in colors to describe in the 2006 Cancer Ready) MSC captured basketball championship Friday night by whipping visiting Pampanian Hundred Bleeds, 85-70, at the Gov. Angel Medina Jr. gymnasium.

The Ozamiz squad of Mayor Reynaldo Parungao notched their fifth straight win to hold a balanced attack.

Ranga Rainbird with 18 points, five assists and two steals.

Simone Silly Sinnil and Dilly Ocampo contributed 11 point apiece while Jesse Guerrero and Corey Caron chipped in 11 and 10, respectively.

After a tight first quarter, Ozamiz began pulling away in the second quarter, 43-30.

The Frenched Mando of the Peregrine American Basketball League led by its president, Mayor Bernard Bragueza, and team manager Rolando Sr. suffered its fifth loss in six games.

The score:

OZAMIZ (85)—Rainbird 17, Mondejar 12, Guerrero 11, Sinnil 11, Caron 10, Ramos 8, Zuñiga 7, Lingard 7, Velasco 5, Vergara 4, Abella 4, Legaspi, Dimayuga.

HAGADAN (70)—Dan 14, Del Mesa 12, Tolentino 11, Lopez 9, Bautista 8, Aquino 8, Fe Mesa 6, Vergara 5, Roman 2, Contreras 1, Zapata 0, Tan 0, Calaycay 0.

Quarters: 19-10, 43-30, 66-54, 85-70

TYSON'S scampers out of his car after losing control and landing on the danger zone in the qualifying event. ERNIE MANALO

Sy zooms to victory in Asian F3 opener

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—FILIPINO ACE Tyson Sy, fielding at race while his new car, zoomed to victory yesterday in the opening round of the 2006 Asian Formula Three Series before an ecstatic crowd at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

Relegated to fourth spot on the starting grid after completing last four laps in the race he pole position earlier in the day due to a faulty brake, Sy, 18, zoomed past qualifying leaders Intanan Jobo O'Hara and Kilroy Alejandro Jodo Rosa at the green flag and drove trouble free to the end of the race.

"I didn't think it would happen that way but in long, safe, cautious spell," said Sy, the lead driver of Speedcarb Asia who clocked 16 minutes, 33.209 seconds, nearly five seconds ahead of second placer Dillon Bautista of Bataan.

Bautista, sixth in qualifying ahead his JA Motorsports car also spanned past O'Hara and Rosa at the start but he had to catch up with Sy per distance as the 12-lap race progressed.

"I'm very satisfied considering it's my first race in a while," said Bautista, 26, who competed in his first race in nearly three years.

Brian James Pilandot of JA Motorsports, who edged Sy by one point en route to a third-place finish overall last year, salvaged third spot on the podium, coming all the way from fifth on the starting grid. He clocked 16:40.482.

Sy, who topped the finished fifth, just behind Indus Maurice Sorpresa of Speedcarb Asia, last year's pronounce class winner, while Pena dropped out after hitting the car of fellow Filipino Peter Mamon, of Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO, in lap two.

Only eight of the 14 starters managed to finish the 12-lap race, with Government Regency Development Authority (GRDA) team coming in stark, followed by lady driver Michelle Bangayan, 16, who is eying her bead at Formula Three racing after riding last year's Asian karting championship.

Bangayan, driving for Scott Goddard, topped the pre-competition Gate Test and Skills Obstacle built in 2000 and below, followed by JP Tuason of Tuason Racing and Caby Dela Silawal who completed just seven laps.

Saturday's order of finish will be the grid positions of the starters in Round 2 Sunday morning of the series hosted by PLEX PHOTOS., PLEX movies, Wakasan Tires, Lima City Hotel, Emmanuel Pharmaceuticals, Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO, Speedcarb Asia, Big Shot Billiards, Suzuki, City Basketball Select, Tuason Racing School, Ford and Mazda. Race enthusiasts can log on to www.asiaf3.net for updates.

Team Goddard eyes 3 crowns

JOAN GUZMAN, NFD STAFF CAdio Pablo and Michele Bahagiones, Negros Occidental's Asian Karting Champ Jacob P. Rosario, Batangas Rep. 19-year-old Philip, who is sponsored by PLEXMEDIA, MyDSL, Meralco, Mercury Drug, BDO, Coca and Sun Lumber.

Manila Speedway and motorsports enthusiasts, will be gunning for the 013 expert and overall class championship.

The 18-year-old Asian Karting Championship bet is Pinoy's Batangas. The 19-year-old Philip, who is sponsored by PLEXMEDIA, MyDSL, Meralco, Mercury Drug, BDO, Coca and Sun Lumber.

Before James Pilandot of JA Motorsports, who edged Sy by one point en route to a third-place finish overall last year, salvaged third spot on the

PBA Jr highlights Sporty Summer

NORMAN Black with rugs shirt participants

REIGNING TITLIST QUEZON CITYARIANS Welcost Summer the 2006 edition of the Burlington Basing PBA Junior Summer League that comes off the wraps at 11 a.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Twelve other teams, including four guest squads, are out to dreaert Quezon City 's bid for a three-peat in the event serving as main fare of Sporty Summer '06 for kids aged 9-12 years old that started in 2004.

Sporty Summer '06 was launched by Burlington, PBA properties and top basketball coaches on the youth can spend their school break fruitfully.

According to Buddy Tan, general manager of Burlington Industries Phils. Inc. and godfather of the SP Youth cage team since 2002, said they want the students to engage in their favorite sport in the company of their idols and top coaches and trainers.

Multi-titled coach Norman Black has been tapped anew as tournament commissioner of the race that now said now 14.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby advised that the following sales counselors have been terminated by PACIFIC PLANS, INC.:

Name	Termination Date
Evangeline D. Geslani	January 14, 2006
Raquel N. Lutino	December 29, 2005
Arlene Macatao	January 16, 2006
Emma M. Quiddak	January 16, 2006
Ma. Teresa R. Rosales	December 29, 2005
Merlie P. Salvador	March 2, 2006
Wilfreda D. Caingcoy	March 30, 2006

The Company will not honor any transactions and/or dealings entered into by these as of the date of Termination.

Lifetime PLANS

Pacific Plans, Inc.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Printing and Delivery of ARMI Modules

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the Contract for the Printing and Delivery of the Learning Modules for Secondary Schools (LMSS) Modules.

2. The DepED through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) now invites sealed bids from eligible Contractors for the Printing and Delivery of the following:

   2.1 Lot 1 (MAB Modules for First Year - 30,000 copies)
   2.2 Lot 2 (MAB Modules for Second Year - 27,000 copies)
   2.3 Lot 3 (MAB Modules for Third Year - 24,0 Copies)
   2.4 Lot 4 (MAB Modules for Fourth Year - 18,000 copies)

3. International Shopping and ADB Member Country's eligible contractors with ADB's Single Stage, One Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries. A Bidder may opt to bid on any or all of the lots required.

4. International eligible bidders may obtain further information from DepED's Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **May 8, 2006** at the Procurement Service, Room 308, 5th Floor, Bonifacio Building, DepED Complex, Pasig City, Philippines, or Tel. Nos. (632)636-6240/(632)-6310 or Fax No. (632)636-6239, (632)-6240 during office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or **(http://www.deped.gov.ph/ or www.procurement.deped.gov.ph)**.

5. The Bidding Documents in the English language may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on the submission of a written application to the BAC Secretariat and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Php 1,000.00. The method of payment will be in cash, cashier's check, manager's check, or certified check.

6. Bids must be submitted or delivered to the address given below on **May 23, 2006**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of a bid security declaration or a bid bond. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address given below on **May 23, 2006** at 10:00 a.m. Late bids shall be rejected.

7. Prior to their opening, bids will be checked to ensure that they are properly sealed and identified. Bids will be opened one at a time, and the following will be read out and recorded: the name of the bidder, the presence or absence of a bid security declaration or bid bond, and any discounts. Bids will be evaluated on the basis of the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) per lot. To be considered for award, a bid must be responsive to the bidding documents and shall be ranked as the LCB per lot.

8. The Department of Education will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

(Sgd.) ATTY. **MARIO D. BAÑOSBAÑOS**
BAC Vice Chairman

BAGUIO WATER DISTRICT

"WE SERVE"

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Baguio Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered and accredited by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects (approved budget):

Name of Contract	Construction of Reservoir and Installation of Pipelines at Asin Road, Baguio City (Source: Asin Tubod Water District)
Location	Asin, City
Brief Description	The project involves the construction of RCC pipeline and appurtenances, concrete retaining walls, shoring, fencing, and other civil works. Installation of pipelines and appurtenances, including pipe laying, backfilling, and testing and commissioning. Includes Tasks 1 and 2 and as specified in the Contract Documents and as directed by the Engineer.
Key Equipment and Number of Units Required	Pay Loader (1), Backhoe (1), Dump Truck (1)
Contract Duration	One hundred twenty (120) calendar days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License appropriate to the Contract Cost and Category of Work, Income Tax Return, Audited Financial Statements, Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) computation, Valid Mayor's/Business Permit, Tax Clearance, and other documentary requirements as may be required by the BAC. The NFCC must be sufficient to cover the Contract Cost of the project. Joint Venture (JV) shall be allowed in accordance with the provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184.

The qualification criteria, rules, eligibility documents and procedures, and the Terms of Reference are specified in the Philippine Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) Resolution No. 04-2005 dated 04 August 2005 and the Revised IRR of Republic Act 9184. This is posted at the PhilGEPS website and the website of the Procuring Entity, if any, and at any conspicuous place in the Philippine International Convention Center. Failure to observe the said guidelines will be a ground for disqualification.

The qualification criteria, rules, eligibility documents and procedures, and the Terms of Reference are specified in the Philippine Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) Resolution No. 04-2005 dated 04 August 2005 and the Revised IRR of Republic Act 9184. This is posted at the PhilGEPS website and the website of the Procuring Entity, if any, and at any conspicuous place in the Philippine International Convention Center. Failure to observe the said guidelines will be a ground for disqualification.

For qualification criteria, rules, eligibility documents and procedures, and the Terms of Reference, the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) - Prequalification and Post-qualification Committee (PPC) Secretariat, Room 2, Administration Building, Baguio City Hall Compound, Governor Pack Road, Baguio City, Tel. No. 442-7171 loc. 2 or Fax No. 442-7171 loc. 2 may be contacted.

The complete BAC schedule is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Submission of Letter of Intent with supporting documents for eligibility to interested bidders and pre-bidding conference at the BAC Conference Room	May 15-16, 2006
2. Post-qualification of Eligibility Documents	May 16, 2006
3. Opening of Bids at the BAC Conference Room	June 6, 2006

Any Bid received by the BAC after the deadline prescribed above shall be returned unopened. The BAC reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract without incurring any liability, and make public the grounds for such action.

The Baguio Water District reserves its corresponding prerogative to waive any defect or to accept any bid which is most advantageous to the District.

(Sgd.) Engr. **ALFREDO M. PINPIN**
BAC Vice Chairman

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

PHILIPPINES
JUDICIAL REFORM SUPPORT PROJECT
Loan No. 7191-PH
BAC-JRSP-03-ICB-WORKS

This invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for the Project that appeared in Development Business issue no. 616 of 15 October 2005.

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of the Judicial Reform Support Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the Contract for the Construction/Renovation of the Angeles City Hall of Justice.

The Supreme Court of the Philippines now invites sealed bids from interested and qualified suppliers for the Construction/Renovation of the Angeles City Hall of Justice. The delivery/construction period is from September 2006 to December 2006.

Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all suppliers from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Bidding Documents.

Interested suppliers may obtain further information from Dr. Nestor G. Pangilinan, Head, Bids and Awards Committee for the Actions Program, and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below: Supreme Court, Session Road, Baguio City, Benguet, e-mail: nestor.pangilinan@supremecourt.gov.ph and inquire. The Bidding Documents may be obtained upon payment of a fee of Php 5,000.00.

Qualifications requirements include: To qualify for award of the Contract, bidders must have the following minimum qualifications:

(a) an average annual financial amount of construction work over the period of five (5) years of not less than Php [illegible];

(b) experience as prime contractor in the construction of projects of [illegible] nature and complexity equivalent to the Works over the period of five (5) years prior to the deadline for the submission of bids, two (2) of which must have been completed in the last [illegible] years;

(c) proposed for the timely execution [illegible] and

(d) a Project Manager with ten years experience in works of an equivalent nature and nature, including no less than three years as Manager; and

(e) liquid assets and/or credit facilities, net of other contractual commitments and reasonable working capital, sufficient to cover the estimated cash flow requirements of any above-named Contract, or to make under the Contract, of not less than Php [illegible].

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee Php [illegible] for an incredible currency. The method of payment will be in cash or certified check.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on [illegible] on 19 June 2006. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on [illegible] at 9:00 a.m. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security acceptable to the Supreme Court Bidding Documents.

All duly short list accompanied by a Bid Security amounting to Php[illegible] (2% of the approved budget for the contract).

The addresses and information above is the Hon. Corazon Ma-ao Supreme Court of the Philippines, Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila Philippines, tel. nos. (63) (2) 554-9529 to 554, (63) (2) 554-9530.

(Sgd.) **CORAZON MA-AO**
Deputy Court Administrator and
Chairman, BAC-JRSP

CAGELCO II

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The CAGAYAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (CAGELCO II) is inviting all interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the following:

1. **Diesel/Blue Water, 11.55 Hybrid 9-15 c. Single Phase**
2. **Diesel/Blue Water, 11.55 Hybrid 9-15 c. 3-Phase Power and wire**

Only pre-qualified bidders shall have bids considered in the following:

1. Accomplished Prequalification Questionnaire to the Bids and Awards Committee Chairman, Caroline E. Jumalon
   a. Company Profile
   b. Business Registration
   c. Business Permit
   d. BIR/SEC Certificate
   e. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
   f. List of Clients for a period of three (3) years
   g. Financial Statement

2. Minimum equity of Php 1,000,000.00 for the particular bidding only and non-refundable bid bid documents costing the price bid conference.

CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any or all bid without any reason, waive any formality therein, accept or reject such bid contingent to the competitive and economic conditions of the cooperative and to declare the bidder as disqualified or ineligible for cogency to enjoy the privilege to participate in the projects of the cooperative if such bidder is guilty of or found to be involved in any of the following:

a. Submission of false documents or statements in the submitted documents to qualify the bidder to bid, short list or award;
b. Record of poor performance such as abandoning the contract, non-performance of obligations within the contract period, or other analogous circumstances;
c. Inclusion of any of its directors, officers, or stockholders in the list of ineligible contractors maintained by the cooperative.

Deadline for submission of requirements: May 31, 2006.

(Sgd.) GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS
General Manager

UCPB Savings

UCPB SAVINGS BANK, INC.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the UCPB Savings Bank, Inc. will be held on 14 May 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the Board Room, 15th Floor, UCPB Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

The Agenda of the meeting is as follows:

I. Call to Order
II. Proof of Notice of Meeting
III. Certification of Quorum
IV. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Stockholders Meeting held on March 02, 2005
V. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Stockholders Meeting held on April 25, 2005
VI. Presidential's Annual Report
VII. Approval of the Audited Financial Statements
VIII. Ratification of Acts of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers
IX. Election of the Members of the Board of Directors
X. Other Matters
XI. Adjournment

(Sgd.) **Atty. JOSE A. BARCELLON**
Corporate Secretary

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday SPORTS

SUNDAY, 2004

Naga lifts covers off Palaro

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NAGA CITY—A TOTAL OF 24 records fell by the wayside last year, when the Palarong Pambansa was held in Iloilo City.

Organizers of this year's staging here hope to better that mark.

Nothing is cast from the absence of President Arroyo, who turned down a second straight Palaro invitation because of a prior ASEAN Foot commitment, the school-based meet unfurls at the Metro Naga Sports Complex brimming with hope and confidence.

"In our mind, nothing can replace the Palaro as the premier grassroots program," said Philippine Sports Commission chairman Ronnie Ramirez in a media briefing yesterday. Ramirez was joined in the briefing by education secretary Fe Hidalgo and Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo.

The PSC takes a backseat to the DepEd, which will be the event's major organizer this year.

The absence of Arroyo, who was here in the 2002 staging of the event and in Tagbilaran last year, did not dampen the spirits of Hidalgo and the organizers.

Vice President Noli De Castro has confirmed his arrival while political bigwigs such as Sen. Aiko Sotto, who hails from this province, and Sen. Edu Pangilinan, will attend the opening ceremonies.

A total of 17 sports will be culminated in the P34-million, 8-day meet.

The DepEd received funding from the budget department, according to Task Force Palaro head Luis Bibelo.

The funds were distributed to the regional delegations, technical management and to the host city, which got financial assistance worth P3-million.

Hidalgo said the regions received varying amounts based primarily on their proximity to Naga City. She cited ARMM or Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, which got P2.5 million to cover its transportation needs.

Robredo vowed to help the host improve on a fifth place finish in elementary and a sixth-place performance in high school during the 2003 Palaro.

Southern Tagalog Calabarzon is the elementary defending champion while WCP holds the high school crown.

HEADING HOME: Elizalde Alba of Manila runs from second base to home, making herself part of Manila's 6-0 demolition of Bataan during the Philippine Softball Open Championships.

Trips to US, England await NTCC champions

By Jong Arzaga

ALL-EXPENSE PAID TRIPS TO PRESTIGIOUS events in England and the United States await the winners of the second National Tournament of Club Champions slated May 15-19 at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club course in Cavite.

Presented by Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. and Inventure Golf for the second straight year, the NTCC features champions of 30 golf clubs all over the country who will compete for one of the most coveted prizes in local golf.

The men's division champion will be able to witness the HSBC world match play tilt in Wentworth, England, this September, while the ladies division winner will travel to Sloane Jersey this July for the HSBC LPGA matchplays.

At the draw-of-lots yesterday, there were 23 entries each in both divisions. Making it last were John Hay here Shaun Noll and Nanette Filler.

Tournament sponsors are Jim Lucio Bailey, Callaway as the official apparel, Philippine Airlines as the official carrier, Hillside Travel Club, Rado as Media, Acura as the official vehicle and Mizuno as the official ball. Pinecrest, the first locally-assembled golf car, is also an event sponsor.

Official participants will be presented in the Champions' Ball to be hosted by PSA President Andy Fontanilla and HSBC President and CEO Vincent Manning.

The first round is scheduled on Monday, May 13 at the Dye course with the all male contenders vying for the first round which is actually a seeding stage for the Round-of-32. Only the top 16 among the ladies, however, will advance to the tournament proper.

Tuesday, May 14 is a long day for the men as the survivors will also play the Round-of-16 in the afternoon.

The quarterfinals is slated on Wednesday, May 17, the semifinals on Thursday, May 18 and the finals on Friday, May 19.

Southwoods makes Ford grand finals

TEE MARK A SOUTHWOOD HIGHLIGHTED a gross score 10 under par with a scintillating putting performance to run away with the Luzon West Satellite Finals of the Ford National Team Showcase title recently at the Orchard Golf and Country Club.

The foursome of Claudine Garcia, Cle Dominguez and Mitzi and Daisy Sumalinog built a sure 17 via the modified scramble format to humble the 23-team field. Wielding her partner, the ladies of the Manila Southwoods squad did not score a single bogey on their cards.

Runners Raul Bagtas, Mac Manansala, Sonic Guerrero and Carlo Legaspi and Arnold Icamina, Rally Juan, Manfred Guiaoloong and Wilbert Uy finished tied with a 65 gross, with the first foursome winning by countback. They will join Southwoods in the Grand Finals.

Marlo Antolentino, Florentino Nilanis, Mark Garcia and Wayne Cruzquero of Cebu Country Club fired a gross score of 61 to lead the three teams that will be making the trip to The Orchard and Sta. Elena for the finals.

The Ford National Team Showcase is sponsored by Ford Group Philippines in cooperation with Pinetrees, sanctioned by Illinois, Rudy Project, VMS Group, St. Francis, Sea Air, Citibank, Asian Sport, Adidas Eye-wear, Bench, Golf Pro and Raymundo Trophies. For more info please visit www.golfligan.ph.

ENTERTAINMENT

Almost suspended

KEANNA Reeves: "They took pity on me."

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

KEANNA REEVES, BIG WINNER IN THE celebrity edition of the reality series "Pinoy Big Brother," is the latest star to be disciplined by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB).

Reeves was censured because of a joke she had cracked on ABS-CBN's Sunday afternoon show via his guest host, "The Buzz" anvil April 16.

Enumerating her nicknames [for example, "EPIC" for "EDP"], Reeves, during the "Buzz" interview, recounted an extra she had made in the "PBB" house. Instead of, "It's your loss," she said "E pwede."

"My mistake," Reeves told Inquirer Entertainment on Friday, "now that I translated it literally to Tagalog, ... ito pwede na kainin mo ang ari-ari mo. I didn't realize it had double meaning because I'm Lebanese."

Hearing

On April 26, Marissa Laguardia, MTRCB chair, issued a "notice of hearing" addressed to Ma Ocampo Villareal, network senior vice president for Television Productions.

Laguardia's memo stated that Reeves "transgress [sic] [her power] in not fit for television viewing... a prime facie violation of Presidential Decree No. 1986 and its implementing Rules and Regulations."

The memo required the respondents (Reeves and ABS-CBN represented) to submit a warning of MTRCB's hearing and Adjudication Committee on May 3.

Reeves attended the hearing accompanied by [illegible] father, Ben Reeves, ABS-CBN and Backstreet Inc., her management company.

Instead of the expected suspension, Reeves was given a reprimand and was directed to "exercise care in her language, actions and manner of dressing."

Apology

A "suspension" would have meant Reeves, who has no regular show at the moment, wouldn't be allowed to guest on TV.

Reeves announced: "I told the MTRCB, 'Ano na ang kakainin ko?' [What will I eat?] They laughed because we were back where we started. The topic of eating! I guess, they took pity on me."

"They loved our didn't," Reeves' manager, said.

"Chale Laguardia told me that I should be more selective [of the host] then I'm now popular and that my behavior might be imitated by young viewers," Reeves owned up.

But Reeves wasn't entirely trusted with her glasses, directed said. She's required to make "a public apology."

This was indicated in ABS-CBN's official response, contained

AUDITIONS

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GALLERIA

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 2 • THX
1:00 4:10 6:00 8:50
2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
11:05 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00
3 THE SENTINEL
12:00 2:40 5:10 7:50 10:00
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00
5 AQUAMARINE
12:10 2:30 5:00 7:20 9:50
6 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
1:00 3:30 6:10 7:40 9:40
7 THE WILD
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
8 SLITHER
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:40 10:00
9 FANTASTIC FOUR
10:40 1:00 3:20 5:40 8:00
10 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
1:00 3:30 5:40 7:40 9:40

ERMITA

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
10:30 1:10 3:50 6:30 9:00
2 SLITHER
12:00 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
3 THE WILD
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
12:00 1:00 3:00
4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
11:00 2:10 4:40 7:10 10:00
5 THE WILD
12:40 2:20 4:00 5:40 7:20 9:40
6 AQUAMARINE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
7 SILENT HILL
11:00 1:00 4:30 7:10 9:40
8 THE SENTINEL
10:15 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST

1 SLITHER
11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
1:15 4:00 6:40
3 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
6:00 8:40 9:10
4 SILENT HILL
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00
5 THE WILD
12:40 2:20 4:00 5:40 7:20 9:40
6 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
7 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
11:00 1:40 4:30 7:10
8 THE SENTINEL
12:30 3:30 6:40 8:40 9:40

NOVALICHES

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
3 SILENT HILL
4 D' LUCKY ONES
5 THE SENTINEL
6 SLITHER

CITYSQUARE MALABON

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER

1 THE WILD
2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
3 AQUAMARINE
4 SILENT HILL

STA. ROSA

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 BASIC INSTINCT 2
3 NANNY MCPHEE
4 THE SENTINEL

LIPA

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 THE WILD
3 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
4 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE
5 BASIC INSTINCT 2

DASMARINAS

1 JUST FRIENDS
2 SLITHER
3 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
4 SHE'S THE MAN

ANGELES

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 SLITHER
3 NORTH COUNTRY
4 THE HILLS HAVE EYES

IMUS

1 SILENT HILL
2 SLITHER
3 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
4 AMERICAN SOLDIERS

STARMILLS

1 SLITHER
2 NORTH COUNTRY
3 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
4 GRANDMA'S BOY
5 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
6 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

BACOLOD

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 THE WILD
3 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
4 BASIC INSTINCT 2
5 JUST FRIENDS
6 FINAL DESTINATION 3

ILOILO

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 THE WILD
3 SILENT HILL
4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
5 GRANDMA'S BOY
6 TIGER BLADE

In Meg
it's stil

GMA 7 protests ch
is top in Metro. A

By Nini Valera
and Bayani San Diego Jr.

Almost su

ga Manila, ll '24 Oras'

ain that ABS-CBN's 'TV Patrol' ctually, they're both correct

"TV Patrol Global," 22:6.

In an e-mailed statement, Bagtas explained further: "Metro Manila ratings... shows that 'TV Patrol' sees itself as 'the only 24-hour newscast' in the country, while '24 Oras' calls itself 'the first and only newscast that delivers the news 24 hours a day, seven days a week.' Both claims are correct in their own right."

To an earlier interview, Maria Reyna, senior vice president and head of News and Current Affairs made clear her position: "It's a long way to go in Mega Manila."

But she considered Metro Manila figures "significant," she said, because Metro comprised 19 percent of Mega Manila ratings. The remaining 20 percent is the Suburbs.

The numbers fluctuate every day, but it's healthy competition, as far as Reyna is concerned.

"It's [not productive] to get into fighting matches," she said. "What's more important is to focus on home programming. Ratings [can be] deceptive. You have to look at the performance [a program] is afflicted by pre-programming and para-programming [shows that come before and after], which change often."

What is constant, Reyna pointed out, is the viewers' trust.

"According to Pulse Asia's latest survey, 88% [28% more than the highest credibility rating ABS percent as opposed to UNTV 60]," she said. "[For me] it's nights we're on the right path. That's what I tell my reporters."

This report is also [figured] by GMA.

Bagtas's statement concluded: "[The AGB Nielsen] Ratings also show that GMA News is the preferred news source during significant events such as the May 1 Labor Day coverage, Mistah Bonifacio [anniversary], Board of Inquiry, Feb. 26, the 8th, 24 State of National Emergency Declaration, the landslide in Southern Leyte, and the events related to the 'Hello Garci' controversy last year."

Commercials

And answering Quiapo's point, Bagtas[1] answered, "Advertisers look at Mega Manila ratings in determining [commercial placement]."

Roy Mendoza, an advertising executive, confirmed this. He said advertisers usually booked ads in top-rating shows even if cheaper media buys also looked at good ratings in cable households.

"The image of the show is also important," Mendoza said, "not only the numbers."

Echoing Reyna, Mendoza added that the Metro was a "very important" market," since it represented 70 percent of Mega Manila.

"In fact," he said, "some clients only look at Metro Manila as the market for their products, [although] this does not mean that clients should ignore the total market."

Ai-Ai asks BF to sign pre-nup

By Nitz Valera

AI AI DE LAS ALAS WAS ASKED HER fiancé Wilfredo "Ian" Flamboyan to sign a pre-nuptial agreement even if she has postponed their wedding twice this year.

Last month, Ai-Ai and Ian were separated in laser-pointed their wedding bands at the comedienne's parish church in Forbes, Quezon City.

Speaking to Inquirer Entertainment on Wednesday during a break in the shoot of her latest movie—Imus Production' "Enteng Tumbok ang Pasko"—Ian Dans, Ian Juan"—Ai-Ai, 43, revealed that she postponed her wedding to the 22-year-old businessman upon the advice of her manager Boy Abunda.

"Boy said I should think things through before I decide anything that would change my life again," said Ai-Ai. "He also advised me to have a big wedding. I would have kept it quiet."

Ai-Ai was married to singer Miguel Vera by whom she has three children—Jennifer, 15; Brenda, 12; and Sofia, 10.

"My children are happy for me, especially Jennifer," Ai-Ai claimed.

Ai-Ai has been linked to an American businessman and to another young man in the past. But she scoffed that Ian is her perfect match despite their age gap.

Young boys

"I don't help it if young boys fall for me," she joked. Turning serious, Ai-Ai said she never cares their happy relationship is patience and understanding.

"It is of patience," she stressed. "He's young, so I have to explain a lot of things to him. He's also a private person. He doesn't even like his photos taken when he's with me."

Last month, stolen shots of Ai-Ai and Ian while on vacation in Boracay were published in a show biz magazine. She said they had spent them.

"I didn't like the picture because I was not pretty in it," she joked. "But couldn't imagine how the photograph was taken. I had to explain to him about the paparazzi."

Ai-Ai and Ian met on the basketball court about three years ago. Ian she said they wanted limiting only six months ago.

"We were friends first," she said. "His mother is also a good friend of mine. His family knows me already. No one has objected that we're engaged."

In a phone interview with Inquirer, Rhonda described Ian as a very nice and decent guy. "I like him," he said.

The wedding will most likely take place next year, said Ai-Ai.

ANG KANILANG HULING PAGTUTUOS
SA KANTAHAN SA ARANETA COLISEUM!

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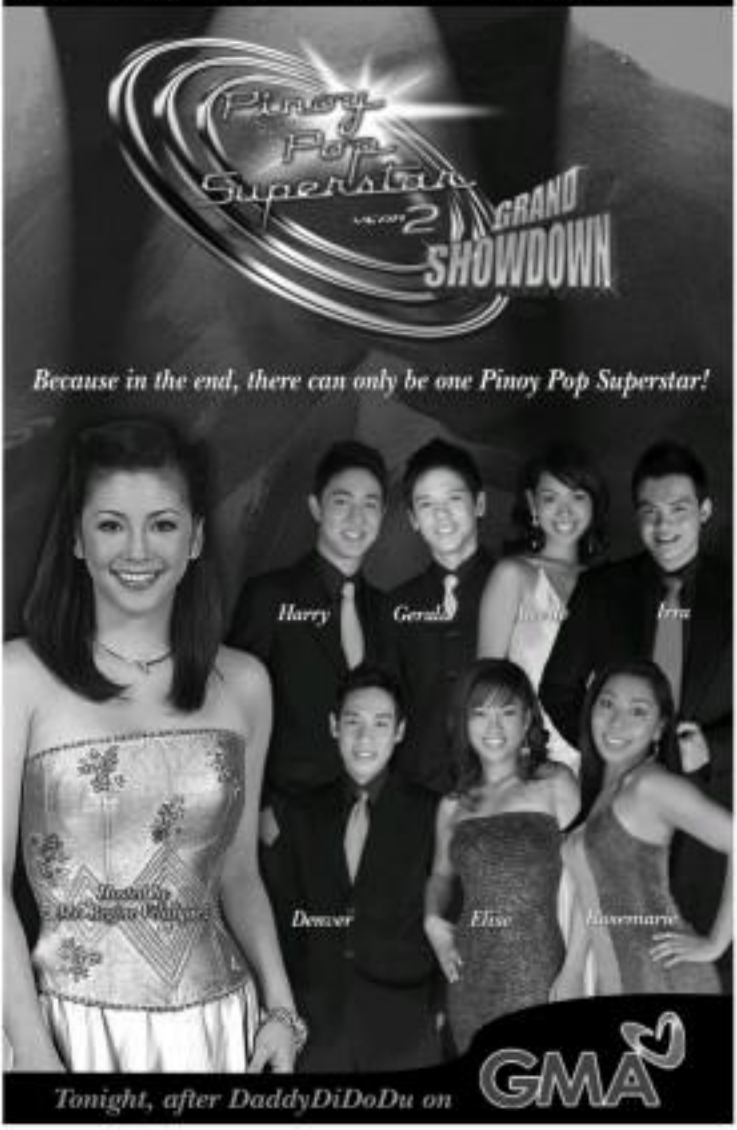

Bituin, at last

BITUIN MAGALANTE ATIMA is her first-ever solo concert, "Sa Bituin ng...," at On stage Greenhills 1 to Makati City on May 12 and 13. Her special guest is Miss Universal, grand prize winner in the recently concluded London International Singing Competition.

SHOW TIME

Call BITUIN for tickets, inquiries and reservations.

Concert beneficiary is the Iloilo Rodney Skirdical Foundation Inc.

Tonight

Premiere Gala Premiere at Shangri-La Cinesphere

spended

From page A1-1

BPN 9, 000

Meanwhile, BPN 9 was also invited to an MTRCB hearing last May 3 because of "Stairs Thriller"—a hidden-camera show imported from the United States that "showed double-breast nipples, a prime facie violation of (S) 5(b), 1986."

The trade secret was aired on April 15 at 7 p.m.

As a result of the hearing, Teresita M. Abora, Program Operations manager of BPN 9, "cannot attend to the MTRCB last May 3, effectively the "acknowledged the reminder" and volunteered to "remove ourselves to compensate (May 6-15).

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SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2006
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
ENTERTAINMENT

A 'civilized' filmmaker

WOLFGANG PETERSEN— described by his stars as a "civilized" filmmaker because "his goes home for dinner" — directed crucial parts of "Poseidon" in a football-field size water tank. See "Only 84 Hollywood," page A33.

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How Christian Bautista thrills girlfriend Rachelle Ann Go

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1) RACHELLE ANN GO FOR SURE! Parents always say boyfriend Christian Bautista, the confident 26-year-old Tarlac City native, is the perfect son-in-law. He's a CD of our pics. It's a slide show with a message in every shot. He also gave me a compilation of songs and a long letter explaining why each song reminds him of me. We had a memorable time in Vegas after our concert tour but, nope, we didn't have a Vegas wedding, ha! Our theme song is "You" by Ronell Fabian. "Ito kasi, ha. Ayan ih. Christian don't just sing about love sports man, bakit! Aware ... they showcased the 30-year-old singer's versatility as a performer. Christian is also a talented songwriter. He composed "Sana Ikaw Na Nga" for Rachelle Ann and "Ikaw Lamang" for Sarah Geronimo. Rachelle Ann's favorite song is "Ikaw Lamang" because it's the first song Christian composed for her. Christian's favorite song is "Sana Ikaw Na Nga" because it's the first song he composed for Rachelle Ann. Christian's favorite song is "Ikaw Lamang" because it's the first song he composed for Rachelle Ann. Christian's favorite song is "Ikaw Lamang" because it's the first song he composed for Rachelle Ann.

Bubay's condition

AFTER seven years, Sunshine Cruz is doing a movie again. Even after having three kids, Sunshine can give younger stars a run for their money. Of course, the new project has the grandpad of her hubby, Bubay (Cesar Montano). She pushed "Sunshine" "cause it will be with Art Blanker! Sunshine. It's entitled Young Stars. Ate Maria pinoy the cape of my kid. Bubay's conditions are, push up bidets midnight, no shooting on location and no kissing scenes!" Even sana-sexy scenes, libs. Cesar Montano is sure to shine, shine, shine sunscreen!

MTRCB RATING - PG13

FROM THE CREATORS OF THE BIGGEST ASIAN HORROR MOVIES OF ALL TIME "THE RING", "DARK WATER" AND "THE GRUDGE"

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MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
SILENT HILL
THE SENTINEL
THE WILD
BLITHER

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

ETK

[illegible] on the third Saturday [illegible] was guests [illegible] host [illegible] CBN 2, 4:30 p.m. [illegible] Thanks to Ogie Diaz, Inet Gonzaga, Derek Ramsay Capuzon, Mercie Mahajeto, MJ Felipe, Jennifer Raymundo, Joel Mercado, Reynold Gilbe and the rest of the staff for making me feel instantly at home. Hope you all enjoyed the juicy stories that "Ito, entertainment friend" delivered lively!

GMA's 'shopping' loans

GMA Network is without a doubt the leader in bringing the best local foreign stories to Philippine television. Much of the credit goes to their key person involved in program acquisitions, experts at exporting. In choosing the fare the program management that the Filipino audience will surely enjoy. They are Annette Gozon-Abrogar, Senior Vice of GMA World-wide, and Executive Barcelona, her VP, pilar Jooy Abonan, VP for Program Management. The trio introduced Korean drama to Philippine TV. The first 2 Korean dramas on Philippine TV in terms of rating were similar GMA 7.

The Program Acquisitions Team are always on the lookout for the next big thing. GMA will soon introduce the first drama box contained Cinta to be aired on prime time, "Love of the Golden Heaven." SP will be one of the first countries to show the drama on free TV. GMA 7 also hopes to start a 1 (Japanese) drama [illegible] with "Gokusen" (daily before 24 Oras). It is based on a manga that became a popular, it was named best live action and an animated series.

Back in business

In RONDO, 3rd Shopping Mall—located on Edsa and Sta. Mesa—is opened operations on April 26. Celebrities who brought the mall are models and hosts Marvin, Mac Alcorsa, Julius Magdangal, Regine Tolentino and members of the media. On April 8, during an exclusive "Night of the Dead Hard, 3rd was awarded the "Number 1 Wholesale Shopping Mall" by the Sales and Marketing Professionals Association of the Philippines, National Shoppers' Choice Awards, the Shopper's Choice Magazine and the Asia Pacific Market Research Council.

Star taut

FROM Dark Brilliante Mendoza: "I just got back from Turin, Italy and I'm glad to say I won the [illegible] men's Headdress! I will pound [illegible] to Rosa, tomorrow for another competition."

E-mail wiseinsight-dcarg@yahoo.com

Dreyfuss trumps co-stars Lucas and Rossum

Veteran star had the best stories to tell at press cons for this latest 'Poseidon' remake

LOS ANGELES—THERE IS NO BETTER WAY to put you in the mood for watching a movie about a ship that turns upside down after a huge wave hits it... than a dinner cruise aboard a yacht.

Minutes blur, did just that. They hosted a rare air cruise in Marina del Rey before we watched "Poseidon," a remake of that peppered disaster "The Poseidon Adventure," a huge hit in 1972. (To exaggerate how long it has been since he watched a movie inside a theater, my San Francisco-based brother Alan loves to joke that the last film he saw was "The Poseidon Adventure.")

The day after the cruise, we sat down to interview eight, not eight people from the movie—director Wolfgang Petersen, Mart Russell, Richard Dreyfuss, Josh Lucas, Jimmy Bennett, Jacinda Barrett, Mia Maestro and Mike Vogel. That means spending virtually a whole day at the Regent Beverly Wilshire. It was enough to make you jump the ship, so to speak, if you are not so inclined to hear the same dozen stories multiplied by seven.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Andrew V. Nguyen

Andrew V. Nguyen

Nonetheless, each of the eight talkers offered some memorable moments. Bret Richard tramped there all without moaning to with his wit and irreverent humor.

Jimmy, who seems to look younger each time we see him (the star is patiently retires to a Ralph Lauren dress, being early hello and still, announced with great brashness at the start of our press run with how "I want you to know that I'm a veteran of my second film. Before I can't always with you for 'Phantom of the Opera.' I promised I would bring you extra bottles, which I am famous for. I have brought it for you today and it's coming straight from the back. Gentlemen, start the whole thing."

With those words, a couple of the hotels staff rolled in a cart, covered in white linen, carrying the champagne.

Playing hooky

Asked about her studies at Columbia University, the normally poised Emmy-nominated star Barrett (a trooper like a child caught playing, well, hooky) said, "I'm playing hooky right now. I haven't attended a class in about six months. I'm working on my second right now but I'm hoping to go back to school at some point. I want to major in English with a minor either in anthropology."

Other interesting quotes from the 19-year-old actor:

"When I first met Wolfgang, he didn't even ask if I could swim (laughter) and then after he met me, he was like, 'Off to your scuba diving training!' and I was like, 'What part of this equation did I miss?' The training was pretty strenuous, especially given the fact that I had never scuba dived before. On the first day they introduced me to this apparatus that they called the cage of death. I swear, 'Can't we call it the cage of life? Can't we have a little more optimistic? It was this very large plexiglass box that they would place over my head and slowly submerge me underwater.

"I would take my last breath before my head was completely immersed in the box. A group of safety divers would surround me. I would have to hold my breath as long as I could and then give three tugs when I was running out of air and then swim to the top. It was pretty scary, but nothing could have prepared me for the morning, lurching, falling, screaming, bleeding and breaking that torment [on] the set of the film."

"The other day, I had a guy in the mail room up [on] set and tell me he loved 'Phantom of the Opera' and drew he proposed to me (laughter). I told him I didn't feel like I knew him well enough to say yes (laughter)."

"I've found that guys have been somewhat shy to ask me out. I used to be really shy to ask guys out. Now I'm starting to get how shy (laughter) become. I realized that I have to do it sometimes—step up to the plate and be brave. The guys that I tend to date are students, or they are to the first two years of their careers. I don't think they're really intimidated because when people get to know me, they realize that I'm pretty normal, I mean, the things that I like to do are pretty normal, like going to the movies and concerts. I'm going to see Madonna's concert in a few weeks. I went to the Black Eyed Peas show because Fergie was in the movie. I went to see David Gray a few weeks ago."

"I spend about half of the year in New York because I travel a lot. I'm making my albums here so I'm back and forth between LA and New York. I still live with my mom in the same apartment that I grew up in. We don't have a housekeeper. I do my own laundry. I make my own bed. I don't really get special treatments. I grew up with a single mom. She's my inspiration. As a photographer, she has been all over the world, hanging out of helicopters in Bolivia photographing oil rigs. She has led an unconventional, adventurous life. I get some of my artistic inclinations and energy from her."

EMMY Rossum

JOSH Lucas

H'wood's handsomest

Josh Lucas, whom we will grudgingly describe (my wife insist said after the screening that—even without Josh is distracting, he will looks "hot") as the handsomest Hollywood actor today, narrowed how he almost drowned: "It was a testament of premier point in my life. I was actually thinking, 'I'm going to die realizing a movie (laughing). It was a very uncomfortable feeling. What happened was, the second they rolled action, I was supposed to get water, swim toward Jacinda. As I went under there was water a body in [page] being held by a stunt guy. The safe caught on my belt and pulled me under because there was suction coming from these water cannons that were creating that wave movement.

"I got very, very angry. Do the angle of times in my life that I've panicked, what happened was this rage comes out. It's the survival instinct, I suppose. I am not someone who loses his temper very often but I got very angry at Wolfgang. The amusing thing about him is that he managed not only to instantly calm me down but instantly get me back in scuba again (laughter) so there must be some brilliant manipulative mind there that I don't quite understand."

More from Josh:

"One of the hardest times in my life was when I was really broke. Five years ago, the day before I got a role in 'A Beautiful Mind,' I was with my girlfriend. We went to Ob Bank and I couldn't get money out because I only had $10. You had to keep a minimum balance of $200. So we went back to the house and we took all of our quarters. There was a moment

Veteran star had the best stories to tell at press cons for this latest 'Poseidon' remake

when the two of us looked at each other and I thought, God, I've been working in this business for more than 10 years and I only have $2.10 in the bank. I just felt sick and I remember just looking at her and thinking, 'I can't even take her out to dinner... we can't even buy dinner tonight. It was really a bad feeling. It was really interesting that the next day I got offered 'A Beautiful Mind.'

Most enjoyable interview

Lucas' is the most genial in the cast, Richard, to give the most enjoyable interview. Glen batted away with a bidding pain, Richard—who married wife no. 3 just last March (Svetlana Erokhin, a Russian)—gave answers that matched the youthful, mischievous glint in his eyes. He even stood up to ask this member of (camera-lens) while telling about Wolfgang. Below are excerpts of our interview with the EXT-Oscar (but Actor for "The Goodbye Girl."

You look good—complexion and everything...for your age.

It's also due to the self-tanning stuff (laughter).

Many actors are going for cosmetic surgery. Would you?

I'll tell you the truth. If I'm 95 years old, I can still support 10 Cedars-Sinai. [Hospitals] and numerous wells are there that we've performed the best. I grab's thing is that it doesn't look fake, I'll do it (laughter). I believe in anything science has to offer that makes you feel good. It's one thing to work around and look like you're from Pluto (be convoluted and concerned his face) but I believe in anything that science has to offer. Why not? A hundred years from now we're all going to walk around with perfect abs and long penises (laughter).

There was no big deal made about your character being gay. It's just casually referred to. Can you talk about the significance of this?

The significance for that character he gay proved, all my involvement. I thought it was very interesting thing. It's not revolutionary. It doesn't change the world but it's a good thing. Make him gay...military, middle-aged guy, breastfeeders. As an actor, I thought that was great. It's less conventional perhaps than it might be and you had because that would bring a bigger audience (laughter).

Burt Russell's character could have told your character, 'Watch I know how to quit you' (the memorable line from "Brokeback Mountain").

Why I didn't tell Jet how with him is the same thing (laughter). I was serious looking at that little ballerina boy that I should have (laughter) had a long-term relationship with the Mayor (Dott's character). I got a letter from this guy some organization congratulating and thanking me for playing this role. They sent me a gift which was purple. It wasn't gay porn with a box (laughter). I took it out and—whoa, what's this (laughter)? It was Part 2. It did open my bedroom a little bit but I thought that was funny.

The back stories explaining your characters and those of the other cast members were real.

I was in favor of making this a show like (laughter). What I mean is, there is not a line of dialogue in this movie that you have to hear. This

DREYFUSS, A3-4

'Kubrador' goes to Moscow

By Marinel R. Cruz

JEFFREY JETURIAN'S NEW FULL-LENGTH digital feature, "Kubrador (The Jueteng Collector)," has been invited to compete with the world's best in the 28th Moscow International Film Festival, which opens June 23.

The Moscow IFF was established by the International Federation of Film Producers Association (FIAPF) in 1977 as an "A-class festival."

"Kubrador," which chronicles three days in the life of a bet collector, is the first Nasty Film to compete at the Moscow IFF since Cirio Santos' "Olga Mumday Ding Ding Dong" in 2002.

The festival's competitive program coordinator Virginia Nikolaeva in Ali Akono of MLR Films, producer of "Kubrador."

Nikolaeva said Jeturian and "Kubrador" had across Gina Parabe is credited as a first-day ob-gyn-as-pedal trip to Moscow as the film's representative.

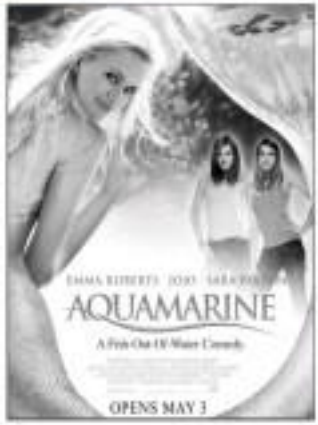
Philip Cheah, festival director of the Singapore International Film Fest, compared Jeturian's craft to the 1973 film "Ossie Lock Nine" by Nicolas Roeg.

Cheah described the movie as "Jeff's best work since 'Pila Bala' and 'Tuling.'" He described Parabe as a "brilliant actress."

Parabe is supported by theater actors Soeding Josel Ohdar Bolay), Nasi Bea (III), Johnni Cruz, cyclomotorist and ABS-CBN director Johnny Manahan (posing caller). Behind the camera is a team composed by Joel Jose Incampbell, Armando "Ding" Lee (script supervisor), Boy Filipeo (director of photography) and Lee Aleps (production designer).

The first Moscow IFF was held in 1935. Before it was celebrated annually in 1995, it took place biennially.

Gina Parabe "Brilliant actress."



Thank you, Miss Paris

By Kathryn Fabros Reyes

WHETHER THE JUDGES GAVE her performances good vote, mixed or bad, "American Idol" finalist Paris Hilton's secret hopes to say "Thank you."

The girl with the Minnie Mouse squeaking voice—yes, only when she speaks—said it was her way of thanking Randy Jackson, Paul Abdul and Simon Cowell for being her virtual coaches.

"Being 17," she explained, "I learned a lot from them."

Paris bowed out of the show after getting the lowest number of votes on Wednesday (Thursday in Manila) thereby escaping elimination from 27-year-old El Dorado, Ark. hotelier Bo Bice in our with Clint Daughtry, Taylor Hicks and Katharine McPhee next week, when they take on the songs of Elvis Presley.

In an exclusive interview arranged by Star Records (and not by any reality-TV show), Paris said she was somewhat flattered about the performances got mixed reviews from the judges.

Cowell described her take on "Kiss" as "screechy" and "annoying," the second song earned for agonized Judge Jackson found her "sings another too-perky Chanteuse-ish." Paris had the same reply to each criticism: "Thank you."

Now that "Idol" is down to four contestants, it should be cooler to answer this question. When do you think will win?

"I'm probably less than all the time—I'm so shy. America has been so sticky this year.

How changed your look from week to week. What impact do you think it had on the voters?

"I think what happened was, everyone wanted to place me in this teenage light and not allow me to grow up. Whatever it was, I'm very happy because now I can show my own voice that has had to say.

Your singing voice is so different from your speaking voice. Did you ever wish this were your set?

"I sure don't. I appreciate my voice in every aspect, so I definitely wouldn't change it.

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Do you have plans for a recording?

"I am definitely working on an album. And I'd like to do a lot of voiceovers. And I want to do acting. I just want to keep entertaining.

Do you have a specific album deal?

"No. I'm waiting for everyone just to throw it at me, and I'd like to pick wisely.

Do you think your age worked against you? Do you wish you had waited, maybe a couple years?

"No, not at all. I don't regret anything that has happened so far. I think God that I was in this competition at this age. I don't think age had anything to do with it ... It wasn't something that people really thought about. It was about talent.

You're so pursued onstage for 17. For any age. Why are you so confident?

"Prayer works. And I believe in myself. Every time I'm on that stage, I give myself full credit—I can do whatever is put in front of me. That's how I make it through. Nothing can really bring me down.

Simon was always saying something you did was too cold for you. How do you feel about that?

"It doesn't bother me. I'm just a little girl with an old soul. I love Gladys Knight. I love all the old, old, old people that just had the great sound to them. Every time they said that ... I was more and more motivated because that's who I am. I'm glad they finally figured it out.

What were you thinking when you put your guns in Ryan Seacrest's hand?

"Well, I had just sung the gospel song. When we sat down, I put a gun in my mouth because I always wanted to put a gun in the mouth of somebody. But since I had just cleaned it, it wasn't ready to go in the top of my mouth. When Ryan said, 'Paris, you're going to sing,' I said, okay whatever. So held out his hand and said, 'Please, you wanna hold this for me?' I just gave it to him, and I was ready to sing. That's just to show America that I'm ready for anything at any given moment. I'll never be caught off guard.

(*"American Idol"* airs on Star Island Wednesdays and Thursdays at 3 p.m. (live) satellite, 8 p.m. prime time and 11:30 p.m. replay.)

Tagalized 'Kill Bill'

"Kill Bill Vol. 1," as dubbed in Tagalog, makes its exhibition premiere on Cinema One at 8 tonight.

Starring Uma Thurman, Lucy Liu, Vivica A. Fox, Daryl Hannah and David Carradine, the film was translated by Mauricio Beguiso and Reginald Santos Jimenez.

Cinema One is available from Sky-Cable Platinum, Sky-Cable Gold, SkyCable Silver and other leading cable systems.

Philippine show biz goes global

MANY OF THE TIME, FILIPINO SHOW BIZ people "think local," ignoring their protestations to audacious item. This is a market-specific illness that gives those shows fewer and fawning box office records in a sense of humanity and lack of ambition and sophistication.

But there have been occasional exceptions to this derailing rule—in the 1950s some Filipino movies were shot abroad, like "Hiwag Kang Lumingon," and decades later superstar Sharon Cuneta filmed blockbusters like "Caribbean Cruise" and "Bonnie Scotland" and "Blue Eternal" in the States.

These productions were popular with local viewers because they gave them something different and decidedly special. And, let's face it, they also tapped into Pinoy's "exotified" reflexive commodity colonial crushes down. And think that "foreign" is inherently better than "local."

Fast-forward to 2006, and it's interesting to note that this continued interest in foreign locales has become much more pervasive, and has expanded from a simple touristic thrust to a major business approach that can only grow stronger from year to year.

Note that the movies have been upstaged by television as the most influential and popular medium in the country; it's TV that's leading the way to making the industry's growing global thrust a key financial linchpin for our floundering economy.

The important shift has been in regarding Filipinos living and working abroad as a major new market that's ripe for the picking—and swinging.

Being Pinoys, they're homesick and hungry for a connection with their homeland, and our TV networks have been only too happy to oblige with The Filipino Channel and other ersatz gimmicks.

In addition, even as the networks buy up a lot of home interstacks for local showing, they're also starting to sell their own domestic productions to other countries.

Most recently Marvin Agustin and Judea Magbanua went to the States to shoot their new telenovela, "I Love Betsy Yeah," and the series will start telecasting May 13 on ABS-CBN. If it clicks with viewers, it could usher in a new wave of soaps/telenovelas-on-demand.

Other gambits include the many pop-musical shows that local artists stage all over the world. And, to the fold, of theater, Monique Wilson's New Voice Company is currently performing its productions of "Napoleon of Love" in Singapore.

These individual moves aren't new, but what is significant is that they're resulting in numbers today rather than just hazy income projections.

Aside from the extra income that these outward-looking initiatives provide, they also suggest that the national mind-set is finally expanding beyond its traditionally insular confines, and that's a good thing. On the other hand, this could also exacerbate our colonial mentality, as we have to guard against that negative tendency and counterpoint. In general, however, we welcome Filipino entertainment workers' newfound global thrust, for the financial, cultural and psychological advantages it could engender.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torres

Hala-Hala Festival

THE SIMBAYANG Coal Girl Halo-Halo Festival" is at 2 to 7 p.m. today at the Market! Market! Central Plaza at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig. The "mall" event features entertainment (new material debuts!), eat-something contingents, and the first, exclusive Chill Diamond Card, a loyalty card for real-deanest lovers.

New reggae and acoustic bands will perform, and Head Turning Bam-ey-Bing, Alfred Vargas, John Arcilla and Nancy Castiglione will whip up their own halo-halo creations in the celebrity category. Other "design your own halo-halo" fun are open to kids, parents, students and chefs.

'CNN Presents Sleep'

CNN delves into the mystifying yet important realm of sleep and dreams in "CNN Presents Sleep," a one-hour program that premieres tomorrow and repeats at 3 a.m. and 2 p.m., and is part of its 24-hr.

The special reveals what sleep deprivation can do, and discusses its link to accidents. Dr. Sanjay Gupta also explores serious sleep disorders including "Parasomnia," a condition where the mind is asleep but the body continues to move. Then, the meaning of dreams in past and present cultures is examined.

Inspirational Album

THE JESUIT Music Ministry of the Jesuit Communications Foundation recently launched "Lords 7: Take My Hands," a new inspirational recording by Fr. Ariel Aquino, S.J. The album returns to the lore of our childhood faith, evoking the songs we sang when our lives were less complicated and frantic.

Feedback

FROM Ed S. Gervacio of Makati City: "I watched the show 'Gospel of Judas,' but it did not detail what the old documents contained, as it was difficult for me to evaluate its message. How can we get hold of this publication?"

We have received these excerpts from the National Geographic Channel: "The Gospel of Judas" text begins, "The secret account of the revelation that Jesus spoke in conversation with Judas Iscariot during a week, three days before he celebrated Passover." It reflects themes that scholars regard as being consistent with Gnostic traditions. In the first scene, Jesus laughs at his disciples before praying to "your God" concerning the Old Testament God who created the world. In the climax, Jesus speaks to Judas and understand what he really is, but they turn away.

"The key passage comes when Jesus tells Judas, '...you will grieve all of them. But you will sacrifice the man who clothes me.'"

Judas is signed out for singled out for special status. Step away from the others and I shall tell you the mysteries of the kingdom. It is possible for you to reach it, but you will grieve a great deal. In any way. He also tells Judas, 'Look, you have been told everything. Lift up your eyes and look at the cloud and the light within it, and the stars surrounding it. The star that leads the way is your star.'

"The gospel also suggests Judas will be despised by the other disciples, but will be exalted over them: '... You shall be cursed by the other generations—and you will come to rule over them...

"The gospel ends abruptly: They (the seeing party) approached Judas and said to him, 'What are you doing here? You are Jesus' disciple. Judas answered them as they wished. And, he received some money and handed him over to them. No mention is made of Jesus' crucifixion.

TV leads the way

Marine painting exhibition

THE PAINTINGS of Alfredo C. Camacho, first Filipino marine painter, is currently on view at the DCSA building in Intramuros.

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GB3: 1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 · 2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 · 3 SILENT HILL · 4 AQUAMARINE · 5 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

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ACC: 1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 · 2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 · 3 NORTH COUNTRY · 4 THE DARK

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WHENEVER he's free, BJ plays his guitar, drumset and keyboards

THESE video games are gifts from his "Eat... Bulaga!" family

If he had his way, BJ would wear a suede superhero, "para pa-presko."

'Tolits' likes it cool

By Marinel R. Cruz
and Shoora Jude Barrios
Photos by Edwin Bacaltos

Head wear, foot wear, formal wear—child superstar BJ Forbes goes for comfort. And, make no mistake, he'd really rather talk about toys, video games and basketball

OUT OF THE CLOSET

NOT MANY KNOW that child superstar Bernard Joseph "BJ" Forbes, only 8, owns a two-bedroom bungalow and an SUV.

Although BJ would rather talk to Inquirer Entertainment about the latest video games, remote-control cars and his basketball idols, his mom, Analiza, insists that this bit of info be made public.

Analiza is bothered about cobbled stories that she and her husband Bernardo are squandering their son's earnings.

"Some write-ups say our house is not conducive to growing-up for children like BJ," said Analiza during our visit to their home in Angono, Rizal. She wondered what the reports are based on. "Some of them even visited our home. I'm keeping all the receipts of purchases we've made with BJ's money."

Analiza said the negative publicity on BJ was probably the result of her ignoring cabled network echo trip to entice mommy from her.

"Hindi pa man ayoon si BJ, may nagsasabi na siya ito, ita-bat, his friends to show his comfort, dahil at anything to give him an Mister birthday," the mother said.

If she'd allow him, he'd buy an iPod. "Maraming na po kasi akong toys," said BJ, the bright boy nominated "Talker" in a series of ads for a brand of detergent.

Analiza explained to him: "Hindi pa man ayoon si BJ, may nagsasabi na siya ito, ita-bat, his friends to show his comfort, dahil at anything to give him an Mister birthday," the mother said.

"You're too young, BJ. You might just lose the iPod, especially because you're always turning around the set."

For his 8th birthday, his parents gave BJ a motorized mobile—but he was driving around their subdivision. "Pero may aksidy," BJ's mom pointed out.

HE'D rather wear this suit as formal wear, "kasi po nag-propose ako sa love ng buhay."

BATTERY-OPERATED robot brought to Hong Kong, with money from "The Jury" (de Leon).

TOYS/VIDEO GAMES

BJ: *Hindi ko po sa Hong Kong ha (theme a battery-operated robot called Space Fighter). Tapos pero, galing Jury Tito Jury (de Leon.)*

Ten pang mga games sa PS2 (Play Station) 2) ay ipinamigay ko last ng "Eat... Bulaga!" Marami po pong kids sa Jesse. Ang paborito kong laruin ay yung 'Gun Blues' or 'Grand Theft Auto.'

Analiza: *Some of these came* from friends (Vic Sotto), Wally, Ms. (Tessa) Britanico, and the other cast members.

His biggest remote-control car is a gift from *Boys' Games* (Bhanics).

BJ: *Mayroon po po yan sa loob, ni saka may cool. Pang-mountain na* may mukha, yung Extreme Sports. Racing Car, bigay po ng staff ng 'Lovely Day.'

Analiza: The other RC is from Mayor (Jose) Garcia of Taytay, Rizal.

BJ: Thunder Tiger po ang isang (Tyco). Bigay po yan nung birthday ko (March 27).

Analiza: The family's birthday gift to him is a mini-motorbike. Actually, all my boys were asking for a motorbike. My husband and I hesitated—baka kasi magpag-usapan pa ng bahay nila—until we saw this bike. We just make sure BJ is wearing his helmet, and one and big protectors all the time.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

BJ: *Ito lang ang gitara ko, pero si Papa Mambo meron. Nakapag-pang-rhumba at Argay-pang gitara ko, kasi ito ang nakuha ko.*

Analiza: He bought this because we want him to take guitar lessons in the future.

BJ: *Sports pala eh!*

Analiza: The kids also own a drum set. May bass si BJ, *pero* wala pa sa mga tugtugan namin.

BJ: *Meron din kaming keyboards. Nakakapunta din po ako...*

CLOTHES

BJ: Paborito ko po ito (shows T-shirt designed by Eric Pineda, an Idol and Tulfo Star celebrity) kasi ito yung gumamit ko sa "That's My Boy" at sa awards night (2005 Metro Manila Film Festival). Pero hanggang ako po ang pipili ng susuot, ang gusto ko sarado lang kasi po pinalo.

Interviewer: Gusto mo awards night?

BJ: Pag pormal po, suot ko American (formal two-piece suit, worn with necktie). Kasi po nanggagaw ako sa buong Tagalog. Kung casual lang, siyempre ito na grand finale ng "That's My Boy." Paborito ko ito po ang blue. Pawari na lang po black ang colors ng sinet-kasa. Ang gusto ko nga po talaga, yung pants black tapos blue ang jump-kasi.

SHOES

Analiza: Converse and Shaks U! Ikaw pwede noon si BJ's shoes.

BJ: Gusto ko po ito (shows a converse rubber shoes from Converse) dahil color green. Mayroon din pang red and blue, pero nabakuran na po dahil favorite color ko tapos yung blue. Blue na nga po ang Amerikana ko tapos pati sapatos blue pa rin? Dapat hindi rin po. Bigay sa amin ng pormal, pero ako po ay Bench kasi Bench leather. Hindi po kapag-cast ko lang po siguro. Meron po kasi. Kaya ito po ang pinagsuot kung pang-basketball. Quite-cut. Converse rubber shoes in black and white). Talagang pang-sports po ito. Player po akong basketball at nakikinig-on namin.

BJ'S FAVORITE headgear is this sun visor— "Yun pong pumbrong may bakas-sa-ulo."

BJ'S FAVORITE headgear is this sun visor— "Yun pong pumbrong may bakas-sa-ulo."

HE DRIVES around in this motorcycle-like, the family's gift on his 8th birthday.

BJ IDOLIZES NBA superstars Yao Ming, ("magaling mag-shoot"), Shaquille O' Neal ("magaling mag-dunk") and Tracy McGrady ("magaling sa three points").

THE NEXT time he shops for shades, BJ wants to get a mirror.

ACCESSORIES

Kapag po dalidi ako ng shades, dadalhin po yung magandit ang kulay. Gusto ko ngayon po 'yung color red. Bagay po siya sa maraming damit. Wala akong po ng shades na violet. Kung hindi po sila gusto ko violet lenses.

Ang paborito ko pong sombrero ay yung may bota sa ako (sun visor). Kasi po hindi mainit sa ako. Ang pinaka-ayaw ko po ay yung nakakatong nang. Ang init nun!

(BJ is in the cast of "Eat... Bulaga!" He is also in the newest documentary, "Batanes Kids," which premieres tomorrow on the Kapuso network.)

Why hasn't Julia left for H'wood?

JULIA CLARETE HAS BEEN posting all her sexy assets trip to Hollywood since she won it in November, but four-foot-level viewers would forget her if she's gone for that long.

The trip is one of her prizes as winner of ABC-5's reality talent search, "Hollywood Dreams." Julia was supposed to throw two movies there—"Wrinkles" and "I'll Marry You"—for Tri-Ani Hernandez.

Pops Fernandez

A CLOSE associate of theirs recommended estranged couple Martin Nievera and Pops Fernandez for host and judge, respectively, on the forthcoming "Philippine Idol."

Hear about "Family Feud"? (Making.) Martin's girlfriend, Sarina Ojeda, is reportedly pregnant.

Too thin

NICOLE HERNES, whose dramatic weight-loss spawned speculation that she has an eating disorder, acknowledges she is "too thin" and is getting treatment.

According to the Associated Press, Kirbie, 24, told Sunday Pati in an Inns issue: "I wouldn't mind any young girl looking at me and saying, 'That's what I want to look like.'" The story will be on newsstands this week.

Reel meets real

IN HER latest film, "Swimsuitland," Jennifer Moore plays a woman whose son was kidnapped. In real life, 30 reported, the actress is helping the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children to keep kids safe.

Vicers to adopt

HALLE Berry says she wants to adopt a child—someday.

"I will adopt if it doesn't happen for me naturally," the 39-year-old actress said in a recent interview with TV personality Jenny Tsien, which AP quoted in a report.

Crazy, fun

JESSICA Alba, host of the 2006 MTV Movie Awards, told AP on Monday: "It's always a crazy, fun show, and I can't wait to be right in the middle of the action."

Alba, 25, is nominated for three golden popcorn trophies—Instant Performance for "Sin City" and Best Threesome/Sine On-screen Team with Michael Cibbs, Chris Evans and Jessica Simpson for "Fantastic Four."

The awards will be filmed June 2 at Sony Pictures Studios in Culver City, California. The show airs June 8.

A little nervous

IN TRAVELERS Rest, South Carolina, Kevin Costner, 54, confessed he was nervous when his unnamed band gave its first performance last week at the BMW Charity Pro-Am golf tournament.

"We didn't have a chance to do a sound check," Costner told AP. He played acoustic guitar on his own rock songs.

Keira's gown sold

IN LONDON, the off-shoulder dress worn by British film star Keira Knightley at this year's Academy Awards was auctioned on the Internet to help drought victims in East Africa.

RUSHES A bidder from Chicago won the deep-cherry Vera Wang taffeta-silk gown with a bid of 43,001 pounds ($77,868 dollars).

"It's brilliant that this dress has raised this much," Knightley told Agence France Presse.

Perfect irony

IN NEW YORK, Brooke Shields said "the irony is perfect" that her daughter, Grier, and Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes' daughter, Suri, were born on the same day AP reported.

Shields and Cruise had a public spat last year after the "Mission: Impossible III" star criticized the actress for taking antidepressants after the birth of daughter Rowan, who was 2 then month.

Go ahead, sue

IN WASHINGTON, AFP reported that the US Supreme Court ruled on Playboy playmate Anna-Nicole Smith on a pause her legal battle to claim a multi-million dollar share of her late billionaire husband's estate.

Smith is the subject of pregnancy rumors, according to AP.

Howard K. Stern, her hazard this same secret. "If Anna-Nicole is pregnant, the obviously doesn't want anybody to know yet. If she's not pregnant, she's not denying the rumor because she thinks it's funny how much of a stir it's causing. She'll leave it up to you to guess what is true is it."

Okay, that really helps.

What've they kidding?

PEOPLE Weeklies and Jennifer Aniston aren't fooling David Letterman.

Mitch Vaughn as a guest on "The Late Show" on New York, Letterman took the approach of pretending the relationship, AP reported.

"Hey, stop going on that Jennifer Aniston thing," said the late-night host.

Embarrassed and amused, Vaughn retorted: "It's very nice of you to say that, Dave. It's been kind of interesting for me, and I just choose not to talk about my private life that much publicly."

The actor eventually addressed the rumors, "Are you like the way he just kind of takes the approach that it is the confirmed relationship] is a fact?"

'Voltes V' is back with all-star 'cast'

By Paul Dass
Contributor

FOLLOWING THE LEAD OF Disney Plane, which uses the voices of popular Hollywood actors as club Japanese animé features like "Spirited Away" and "Princess Mononoke" into English, local cable Channel Geo now does the same for "Voltes V," perhaps the most famous Japanese robot series ever to be shown on Philippine television.

In the late '70s, "Voltes V" became a TV phenomenon when it premiered on free TV GMA 7's weaken noon! Filipino robot talents speaking in English to bring the tale of robots, human brothers, and feuding half-brothers to life.

Now, more than 20 years later, Voltes is re-releasing the show in Filipino with a celebrity voice cast. In the lineup are Dennis Trillo, Joseph Bitangcol, Sandara Park, Michael de Mesa, Nikki Valdez, Richie Chan and many others. The lilts at Voltes are apparently buying that our country's unflagging obsession with movie and TV stars will be the marketing gimmick which will entice a new generation of fans to watch a record-setting robot that had to defeat a new beast fighter from the planet Boazania every week. This new version (which also boasts of its all-new, singles Filipino translation) has been dubbed—you guessed it—"Voltes V: Evolution."

On the most part, the cast of "Voltes V: Evolution" does excellent work. As main leader Steve Armstrong, award-winning actor Tirso brings a pitch perfect mix of confidence and youthful overdrive to the role. As Jamie, the love female of the team, Park is also notable. She flawless accented Filipino adds an unmistakable Asian flavor to the show, which was created in Japan. As the villain Prince Zardos, Bitangcol is suitably menacing and angry. Gone, however, is the haughty aristocratic demeanor of the character which

REVIEW

fans have loved in GMA's English version. Of course, it's no fault of Bitangcol's that it's hard or impossible to avoid like an arrogant prince when you're speaking in Tagalog.

The biggest improvement in this new subtitle version has to be the casting of child actor Igi Boy Flores as the pre-teen Little John, youngest member of the team. In the original "Voltes V," Little John was played by an adult who interpreted the parts of boy or her voice-crossed like a child. In "Evolution," it's wonderful to hear the voice of a real little boy whenever the animated Little John opens his mouth.

Excellent as the new voice cast is, it's hard not to miss the distinctive intonations of actor Jesse Gamboa as Voltes V's white-haired co-pilot, Steve. Gamboa's fiery, Agnostli plays Romulo in "Evolution" wonderfully, but he's no Jesse Gamboa. But then again, who is?

Aged very well

In the 20-odd years since Disney were introduced to "Voltes V," the animated cartoons has aged very well. The timeless, emotional story of three brothers' search for their supposedly dead father, coupled with the spectacular action scenes involving mechanical monsters, must be an entire generation of fans who grew up on cartoon-as-tv soap opera. The animation remains impressive by TV standards, especially when one remembers that computer-assisted animation was decade or so away when "Voltes V" was created in the '70s.

With its new one-minded cast and more conventional Filipino script, there's no doubt that "Evolution" will allow a new generation of kids to see why their dads were addicted to this animated series. Now, all that remains is for the folks behind "Evolution" to translate the songs which begin and end the show into Filipino as well.

("Voltes V: Evolution" is shown on the Geo TV cable channel Saturdays and Sundays at 8:30 p.m.)

Sweet and silly summer sojourn

By Oliver M. Palomberli
Contributor

THE TEEN COMEDY "AQUAMARINE" harks back to the days of camps reunion between humans and big, chatty mermaids in movies like "Splash" and "Enter With an Angel." It's also a familiar story that's been remade and regurgitated in magic-enhanced local films, whose less unfailingly

REVIEW

serves the clay and is unrealistic of all physical differences. That mixed formula is given a new spin in "Aquamarine," a silly, starry-eyed, and mostly inoffensive teen adventure that even older audiences can appreciate.

The characters are also smart and emotionally aware teen girls that today's younger viewers can see themselves in, or find fun. These are best friends Hailey (young pop singer Jojo Levesque) and Claire (Emma Roberts), who worry about their impending separation. They're spending the last few days of their summer vacation together, as Hailey and her mother need to relocate to Australia for a coveted job opportunity. The girls playfully and unintentionally invoke a magical solution in their woes. Enter the bubbly Aquamarine (Sara Paxton), a cute mermaid who's been living in

single with if they find someone who'll love her in three days. Because then her underwater dad may release her from a pre-arranged marriage with a merman that she has never met before.

It's doe-before but, surprisingly, not patronizing or annoying at all. Paxton is such a sunshine-y, friendly presence as the displaced mermaid. It's easy to empathize/identify. The rich characters fit snugly as well. Raymond (John Prendergast), the 50-something lifeguard that the girls head over heels for, is goodnaturedly neat around. And even when we're seen teenager and Roberts' characters a hundred times before, they both do decently as innocents, well-meaning and arguably sexiest kids who grow up a little by the adventure's end.

The breezy dialogue conveniently writes off Aquamarine's needs to never get to see many other magical creatures and stories, and we don't need to. The relationship between Aquamarine and Raymond is creatively tackled, and makes one ponder if a person can honestly and believably "love" another in just three days. "Aquamarine" answers that wisely, and covers up a nice, somewhat bittersweet ending that one wouldn't have expected from a cute, wholesome summer flick about friendships, a mermaid and magic wishes.

Dreyfuss trumps . . .

movie begins on a celebration night with noise and crowd and then this horrible thing happens which is tense, crash, bang and boom! I said to Wolfgang, "You don't need to hear one line. It's all done. You can see them but you don't have to hear it." For 90 minutes, you can hear people screaming people going but why do you have to decay the beer? I still say that if they had done it (under it a show film), it would have been the best film of the year (laughter).

Congratulations on your recent marriage. Any dinner that your honeymoon will be on a cruise ship?

My fiancée at that time and my wife were lovebirds, and I went on the Queen Mary first. New York to London and back. When I got on the Queen Mary, I walked in... just to see what it would look like. I would go back, you know. It was great and I would do it again in a minute. You always have, on started shooting.

How did you meet Svetlana?

We were selling our story one day and then our looked in each other. We realized that we were reminding how words something so magical... as we stopped. I don't tell the story anymore. I will say this and I mean it. I'm 58. I never expected love. I never expected one of the to happen to me.

What was the hardest to film, among the various ways that people die in this movie?

Someone actually said to me, "So in what way would you prefer to go, among those shown in the movie...by electrocution, burning or drowning, fig?" I said, "Sleep" (laughter). That's the way I want to go, which I have no intention of doing.

What makes Interview director Wolfgang Petersen different from other filmmakers?

He's the only director I know who should be wearing lederhosen (laughter as he stood up and did his version of a German dance). He's his and you each help on good like this when you're with him. I always end up calling him Doc (laughter). He's a skilled filmmaker. He goes home for dinner and that's a big deal. It means we're going home for dinner. Then for weekend a really hard day's work over was tough. I became an actor because it was easy (laughter). You just kind of memorize and say things. That movie was not easy at all to do. The one the first time even that I really earned my salary and I want to take (laughter).

Wolfgang had different kinds of soup served to the cast and crew at eleven o'clock in the morning every day. Did you have a favorite soup?

None but I loved the fact that he would run a soup. He would say "Here" and the word would go out, "It was a time" (laughter).

You really didn't have soup?

Sometimes I had the soup. I wasn't a soup guy. I was usually so tired. I was in the hotel. They had a limited menu in the car and I was in there whining and complaining.

E-mail the columnist at rmpalma_SMB@yahoo.com.

Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

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A man who finds out why we buy what we buy

By Margie Quiroga-Espino

PACO UNDERHILL'S NAME may not ring a bell to most Filipinos but to many readers, Underhill holds the key to making their cash registers ring.

Underhill is the guru of shopping, he studies how consumers shop and wrote "Why We Buy"—a bestseller which talks about The Science of Shopping. He and his group, under the firm Envirosell, "track" consumers as soon as they walk in a shop—follow them and see what they touch, try on, and even sniff) buy or not buy. They time how long a customer takes, or how the buyer looks at an item. They put cameras in a shop (with the permission of the owner of course) to record consumers shopping. So, they have videotaped pickpockets and shoplifters along the way.

He and his team then go through the data and make recommendations to the shop owners or manufacturers—such as changing the labels or the location of particular items. The objective of hiring Underhill and his group is to find out how to make consumers buy more in a particular shop.

"Combining traditional market research techniques, anthropological observation methodologies and videotaping, Envirosell has established its reputation as an innovator in commercial research and as an advocate for consumer friendly shopping environments and packaging," its website states.

Biggest clients

His clients include the biggest companies in the world—Starbucks, Adidas, Coke, Fisher Price, Johnson & Johnson, L'Oreal, Levi Strauss, Philip Morris, Samsonite, Bloomingdale's, McDonald's, Burger King, Wal-Mart—and he operates in several countries.

Underhill was in town recently upon the invitation of Paolo Mercado, managing director of Publicis Manila, and talked to the advertising agency's clients which include Nestle Philippines Inc., Mewsbank, Pillsbuk, Procter & Gamble.

Mercado gave the lecturer an exclusive interview with Underhill, who lives in New York City—*For honors from Carrie Bradshaw's* apartment in the debutit TV show "Sex and the City."

Underhill candidly says to ask him why he finally accepted an invitation to come to the Philippines after turning down numerous invitations.

"I've had numerous invitations to come here but he (Mercado) was the first to give a compelling invitation," said Underhill.

He said Mercado painted a different picture of what Pubblcis is over he Philippines compared with that of other agencies in the country. "He is doing work on a number of things that interests me."

Mercado has been espousing a concept called "shopper's market" where he is working on a number that there is a science in attracting shoppers to your store.

In other words, there is science in shopping.

Underhill specifically points to a word Publicis is doing with certain stores— what he calls the 'Mo and Pa' stores or more generally known as Mom and Pop stores—small kiosks all over the world that sell a variety of goods, located in residential areas.

Mo and Pa stores

Underhill said if somebody pays him, the one subject he would like to study and explore in Asia is the Mo and Pa store. He said this is an emerging market here especially for large global consumer product manufacturers.

In the Philippines there are over 500,000 sari-sari stores all over the country. And a huge percentage of the sales of consumer goods manufacturers like P&G and Unilever are still sold via these stores.

During his talk to Publicis clients, Underhill said "the visual language is evolving faster than the spoken language. The connection between the eyes and the brains has never been better. The design studios all over the world have people that are under the age of 20. You have to think who you're connecting to."

He cited as an example hotel stationery. The address and phone numbers and fax numbers are written in tiny fonts. And yet, Underhill asked, who are the usual guests of hotels? Businessmen whose eyesight are not

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sun CELLULAR

No need to go to Switzerland for hospitality degree

Local group sets up school with foreign firm to train Filipinos

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE FILIPINO REPUTATION for dedicated service with a smile has endeared them to hotel and restaurant chains here and abroad.

Some say five-star resort or hotel around the world and there's a big possibility that there will be at least one Filipino in key departments, such as the concierge, housekeeping, rooms and food and beverage.

Unfortunately, very few get to more senior management positions.

One of the reasons is the lack of a relevant degree in the hospitality industry, since very few can afford to go to the prestigious schools in the United States or Switzerland preferred by top hotel and restaurant chains.

It is this gap that a group of hotel and foreign investors wants to fill with the establishment of the Enderun Colleges in Dalaga Drive.

Enderun founder and president Jack Tuason tells the buyers in that school, which will take in its first students in June this year, is intended to provide the Japanese with the right skills and theoretical background they will need to make it in management positions once they graduate.

"What we want is to produce business graduates who will work in Japanese companies," Tuason says. "We want to produce managers."

The curriculum includes subjects such as languages, wine appreciation and food preparation to be given by overseas in the industry.

Tuason says the professors were chosen based not only on their educational background but also on their actual experience in the highly competitive hospitality industry, the single biggest in the world.

Tuason says there is no better time to put up a school like Enderun because of the growing demand for talent in the burgeoning hospitality industry in Asia.

"There are countless spas, resorts, restaurants and hotels coming up in the region as Europeans, Americans and the more affluent Asians realize what Asia has to offer.

It is because of the projected growth in the hospitality industry in Asia that Les Roches of Switzerland, one of the oldest hotel schools in Switzerland, has decided to partner with Enderun, the latest partner school of Les Roches outside its native Switzerland.

Les Roches president David Greves said during a recent conference call at the Enderun office that Les Roches was encouraged to come to the Philippines because he believed that Filipinos have what it takes to become leaders in the industry.

Greves said Les Roches knows this first hand as it had to share of Filipino graduates, a number of whom went on to become future executives with it the industry.

Under the partnership with Les Roches, Enderun students have the option to get a non-resort certificate program from Les Roches in Switzerland, or move on to Switzerland for less than two years of education to get a bachelor's degree from the school.

Those who will choose to stay will get a bachelor's degree in International Hospitality Management from Enderun Colleges, majoring in either Culinary Arts or Hotel administration.

The program consists of six semesters on the Enderun campus and two semesters of internship in partner establishments.

The school fee is pegged at up to about P3,000,000 to P250,000.

Enderun Colleges is an optimistic about the prospects of hospitality industry education that the group is building a 1.7-hectare campus in San Bonifacio with a modern culinary center.

Tuason says that with the college campus in place, he feels that there is no more need for Filipinos to spend so much to obtain education abroad, when they can get a comparable experience and education in the Philippines.

STUDENTS will have hands-on training in running a restaurant from experts in the field.

JACK Tuason, John Soria, co-founder of Enderun and Daniel Perez, executive assistant manager of Enderun

State of today's retail, according to consumers worldwide

AUTHOR AND AUDIENCE OF shopping guru Paco Underhill reviously talked about interesting developments in the retail industry toward his fellow marketing in his address marketing today:

1. Coming edge of retail is generally where money is going.

Underhill stated money is not going in London, Paris, Frankfurt and New York. But it is going to Moscow, Dublin, Sao Paulo, Mexico City, Shanghai, Mumbai.

2. One of the primary motivations of construction is how to control labor costs.

Labor cost is not an issue in places like the Philippines, Mexico and Brazil. "Emerging markets are less likely to look to Europe and North America for ideas. Emerging markets need to start leading."

3. Now do I fit into a male-bashing life?

Underhill stated "value is not just a price issue. Price is not the only factor that determines whether a person will buy a product...consumers are looking at values and merits."

4. The Ma and Pa stores are booming.

Consumer flows acknowledge that these stores will be a major contributor to sales growth.

5. Social stratification of retail is over.

Underhill stated that in the past, the rich do not even own to shopping in mass-based shops, but today, "Rodeo Park customers are comfortable buying a Coke from a convenience store."

6. Outfits sold.

The popularity of used clothes or salvage valley is not just a trend in the Philippines. Underhill said there are stores in Japan that span several floors, selling used clothes, shoes and Craig's List carry second hand items for sale.

7. Finding new ways to sell the same stuff.

8. Upgrade and mobile are the battery products.

9. Wise staff in emerging market are highly motivated, well-educated, and is valuable and loyal.

10. The use of shopping stores is declining as shopping becomes change. Consumers go to malls more often in the 21st century than 20 years ago. Design for private labels is one of the opportunities in Philippine packaging.

11. Family eating rituals are changing.

12. Shoppers of clothes are too kinds—those who buy for special occasions, and those who buy for everyday wear.

"Many labels fall in love with the Saturday night markets but the market is this Monday to Friday".

13. The emerging market innovation is finding ways to get beyond the price. Underhill cited the Shopping Mills mall which is a shopping complex, library, art museum, commercial office, hotel, residential place in one.

14. Selling to women. Shops have to adjust to the women market in terms of design, amenities and better understanding of why women shop.

15. Design alone is not the answer—the human grooming retail channel are anti-design.

16. Retailers need to evolve from landlords to place makers —meaning malls is not just about real estate and collecting rent.

17. It's important for business to tool their staff to be having free to make decisions are consumers are having fun too.

18. It is all about solutions—understanding and innovating at the point of sale, learning how to compete with everyone, balancing global needs with local idiosyncrasies. M.Q. Espino

A man who finds out...

Turn to page 4

How to set up a spa without getting wet

By L.A. Villariba

THE SPA INDUSTRY IS SEEN AS the fastest growing segment in the travel industry today. Start choice like the Mandarin Oriental, Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts, Banyan Tree and Four Seasons are building spas all over the world as guest surveys show that most travelers consider a spa necessary in their choice of destinations.

Local spas have responded to the world-wide trend. The Department of Tourism (DOT) is to organize a Spa Association of the Philippines in 2004 as part of its Wellness and Medical Tourism thrust. DOT started with only seven founding members. Today, it has 80.

The spa boom spawned a spa school. It is the first such school in the country with international and government (Tesda) accreditations.

Spa Professional International Development Center president Cathy Bellantes, a graduate of Cornell University Executive Development Program in Spa Management, cites a Cornell study that links "a vacation spot in a destination spa (to) deserves thinking, higher energy levels and greater productivity at work."

A three-letter word

While the business looks promising, Cathy cautions, "It is not enough to offer massage and be called a spa.

The word spa is the acronym for the original Latin words *salus per aqua*, meaning health through water, which describes the early Roman bathhouses.

She cautions that statistics have shown that many new spas fail in the first six months of operation due to the operator's lack of knowledge in what makes a successful spa. "Many aspiring spa owners spend most of their time and effort on making the interior

LINDENHILL says in most cities, "the obvious isn't always transparent."

SPA school president Cathy Bellantes and lecturer Dr. Francis Sia. Maria tells students: "The Filipino is a winner when it comes to highly personalized service."

of the planned spa look and smell nice, while overlooking other just as important details such as choosing the right concept, space allocation, revenue planning, customer-driven menu, proper training, controlling costs and effective pricing."

She notes that inadequate training may lead to incorrect treatment procedures that can be disastrous to health and business.

As founder of SpaAsia Award-nominated Enchanted Spa in Tagaytay, Bellantes asserts that a spa menu of therapeutic massage, body scrubs, wraps and facial treatments be served in a calm, relaxing, nurturing and ethical environment.

She recommends only the highest quality spa products—proven safe, therapeutic and beneficial to the skin—be used. A good spa product delivers on its promises of relaxation, stress release and better skin tone.

It is not only proper but also imperative that spa practice include client consultation to ensure that no contraindications to spa therapy exist, such as pregnancy, high blood pressure, cancer or recent operation.

Spa edges

At the spa school, students/therapists are taught the holistic approach to spa therapy. They are given a good grasp of anatomy and physiology to go with effective and safe massage techniques—from Thai, Shiatsu to Swedish massage—with the end in view of "providing a relaxing, healing and wonderful spa experience for the guest."

"Being driven blindly by profit in the spa industry may be the wrong motivation in the long run," Bellantes says in echoing standards and quality because a spa typically takes two to three years to be able to stabilize and get its proper return on investment. Owners should have the capacity and tenacity to be able to withstand the challenges of the first few years."

Her success formula: "Passion for the business, strong interest in health and wellness and a strong artistic and creative streak can be the driving forces that will help the spa owner tackle the challenges inherent in any start-up business."

She tells owners to decide on whether to create a high profile, regional spa business base (be a gym, beauty parlor or destination, or offer guest service (be a cosy hotel).

Then make a comprehensive study of competitors' find out their image, target, pricing, marketing and operations.

Once the concept and target clientele are identified, the design of the spa comes into play. The spa owner should work closely with architects and interior designers in not only making the physical premises attractive and pleasing to the senses, but in ensuring revenue generation, safety, easy maintenance, and time saving.

What's in the menu

Choosing a menu and planning a spa menu that is unique, attractive and in sync with a defined concept is another area. "It must make clear choices on what products or services to offer."

Ensuring the right staff involves proper recruitment and selection, based not necessarily on skills, but more importantly, on attitude. Therapists have a great responsibility as they interact with guests on a very personal and intimate basis.

She points out that hiring physical therapists is not necessary as a successful spa. She would rather go for therapists who are humble at heart, pure of intention, willing to learn, attentive to detail and are focused on serving others, seeing that this, plus facility with English, is why Filipino exert over-other Asians in the field.

Selecting therapists on the basis of attitude over work experience, then training them to the proper standards may prove to be prudent in the investment end. It prevents the spa manager from having up with acquired wrong techniques that are harder to correct.

Cost of being good

Costing the treatments and pricing them properly are determined from direct costs (laundry, products and labor) and indirect costs (electricity, water and overhead like rent, communication and marketing).

Choosing the right price-point is looking at the market, the competition and cost structure. A good marketing plan creates strategies to reach the target market and embarks on a communication strategy that sells the concept and unique selling proposition clearly.

Back to school

The spa school, located along Gat Tan Street found on South Superhighway in Sucat, Parañaque, helps the industry players meet the standards be a safe, ethical, professionally run and financially viable enterprise.

Courses include a four-hour course on "Understanding the Spa & Wellness Industry" designed for boosters, architects, interior designers and medical health practitioners to acquire a deeper appreciation of the history of spa, the connection to wellness, and business opportunities in the wellness market.

A master topic on "How To Set Up a Spa" is scheduled on May 20 and every third Saturday of the month.

"Professional Spa Management" covers days-to-day operations of a spa and is slated to on May 10-13.

Spa Professionals also offers spa therapy courses including Advanced Massage, Aromatherapy (32HRS) (nonresidential), Scrubs & Wraps, and Facials. Anne Marie Jaspe, Filipino Hilot and others. For inquiries, call 836-2170, email info@spapros.com.ph or visit www.spapros.com.ph.net.

Outsourcing ventures provide light to blind

From page B4

chief operating officer of Top Outsourcing Performance Inc. (TOP), is considering hiring more blind employees now that Alexa Bitz-ag, 33, a student, and Ramon Fortiles, 44, a search analyst proven their worth.

Bitz, an oversea programmer by trade, invested P5 million to build the Center for Technical Excellence Integrated School Inc. (CETISI), which trained TOP's two pioneer blind employees. It opened four 'TOP only months later.

Asia's first

The "blind employee" trend in outsourcing started as early as 2003 when Dr. Michael Bergonia became Asia's first visually disabled medical transcriptionist. Almost his right-of-arm to be was shot in the head and injured up with Total Transcription Solutions Inc. (TTSI), one of the country's oldest outsourcing firms.

But Sibley says the industry's real gamble is in hiring skilled labor from the disabled workpool rather than re-training its medicine.

Officials of another medical transcription firm in Baguio say the fledgling trade is conservative about addressing quick-expansion because it relies on the reputation of the few players in the trade.

Medical transcription demands absolute accuracy and strong data manipulation skills, so even one misplaced decimal point can immediately translate to severe medical errors with disastrous consequences for the country's reputation, Sibley says.

Extensive supervision

Blind workers require extensive supervision by data editors, she says, although usually improvements of the technology may find a solution to the efficiency question soon.

Mahaler says the country has yet to make a census of the blind population, but estimates place there at 1.8 million.

She says a substantial number of the blind are schooled, despite recent United Nations studies suggesting that blindness in Asia is linked to the region's growing poverty.

Mahaler and her brother, Antonio Llanos Jr., are behind the advocacy group Adaptive Technology for Rehabilitation, Education and Empowerment of the Visually Impaired (ATREVE).

Mahaler says her brother's advocacy is for industries to make use of technology so the visually impaired can have a wider access to jobs.

No work for the blind

But-ng's story, for example, is one of frustration.

"I am licensed to handle case studies, but no one would hire me. I have mind to apply at the [Department of Social Welfare and Development], but [they have been too patronizing]. I applied here in Baguio but they could not reconcile my blindness and a work load that requires field work," she narrates.

When she applied at the DSWD Region I office, she was rarely told to "just take care of my children."

Bertha' work history is less dramatic although he admits to spending time playing with school of blind members on a city park.

According to Sibley, the outsourcing trade has a ready work pool in the medical industry's undergraduate. Baguio alone has 20, 000 graduates from the city's nursing services, medical schools and medical technology colleges.

Sibley says this work force alone should sustain the small outsourcing businesses.

"There have been a lot of business concepts presented in our before, but it was medical transcription which got [me interested]," she says.

Medical transcription

Mahaler and Llanos approached Sibley about the outsourcing trade, hoped as they were about immediately training blind workers, together with the sighted, in the call centers and medical transcription business.

"But we lacked the curriculum [in 2002, when CETISI was born] ... that's why we are working hand-in-hand now after [CETISI] graduated [the sighted batches]," Sibley says.

She recalls "blazing" the concept with outsourcing firms like TTSI, and says that these industry stalwarts had no clue as to how it would build a manageable work force made up of blind visions.

Technology is key

A key issue in the very technology that allows these clients to work opportunities.

Mahaler admits that key computer hardware software must be developed to use blind workers about complicated data manipulation operations. Current technology allows many blind workers access to the computer, but not total control over its operations.

The other complications are limited.

Sibley had one of her engineers design a transcription foot pedal which TOP is patenting as "Step Pedal" because unjointed foot pedals are too expensive. Foot pads control the speed of audio or video data streams, freeing up the transcriber's hands so workers can manipulate the computer keyboards.

"Step Pedal," which is named after its designer, a TOP engineer, also includes unique sound features that our transcription time, according to Maico Macha Mbanio, TOP vice president and operating manager.

Changing the face of medical marketing

Doctor's approach is driven by savvy and keen instinct

DR. VICKI BELO REMEMBERS the time when the only medical procedure advertised were those for the treatment of STDs. The Philippines' famous cosmetic dermatologist helped change that with her nontraditional approach to marketing, particularly the high-profile celebrity endorsements and use of print ads and billboards.

Pioneering in her efforts may have been Vicki's marketing approach is driven by savvy and keen instinct. "I like my own life to be exciting," she says. "I like things to be fun, that's why my clinics are fun."

Her son, partners of the Belo Medical Clinic don't have to convince themselves with branding through old-tattered issues of magazines because the magazines in her clinic, she makes sure, are always new. Plus, during treatment, a client is her client and not a patient. "I like to treat people more like a free treat or 'they' love treats.

The way Belo sells is how she would like to be sold as. "A lot of what we offer, I test on myself, " she avers. "Where I talk to a patient about a procedure, most often I do so from personal experience," she adds unflinchingly.

And yes, if her approach has been applied, Dr. Belo is well-remembered. "I am very grateful that I don't look like a character from the 1960s, bubble does she look like one. But the 50s in, in reverse, Vicki dressed up in a figure hugging dress pulled right at the waist that established without a doubt that she was her own true exploratory.

That old adage about doing what we love is obviously at work here. "My whole life has been looking for a way to do what I love—which is to make people look good and feel good, thereby developing their self-confidence and their outlook in life," Apart from her passion for medicine, she has also matured from some of her considerable hobbies like keeping emerald fit (aerobics), reading, self-improvement books and collecting chocolates. "My life has been in synchronicity—it all comes together in my career."

If cosmetic surgery is a creative exercise, then Vicki admits she is "artistic in a sense" because she sculpts bodies. "Remember 18 years of being a cosmetic surgeon has taught me how to anatomically sculpt people and see where their problem areas are and sculpt them in a way that is good," she explains.

Smarter as her achievements may seem, she admits to being in awe of one Quark, writer and filmmaker. "I can't write even if my life depended on it. Quark however won a Palanca Award at 19 and has directed some of the most successful films in recent years," she says.

Quark returns the compliments. "My mom is a very creative and daring person. She keeps on breaking the mold. Before, no one wanted to be a dermatologist but now every-one's into it."

"It's a lot of people, Belo's creative achievements, more than the sculpting of bodies, is her deft combination of the medical arts and business. From those is often in traditionally regarded as a creative occupation—advertising...have-on up and taken notice.

So much so that they asked Belo to speak to an audience of 3,000 people at the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress in Cebu in 2001 and she had also spearheaded this year's Go Negosyo Summit along with top businessmen and women in the Philippines at the biggest gathering to date and recognize local emerging and established entrepreneurs in the country.

"It's good to know that I have not only succeeded in the medical field but that businessmen accept my ideas on how to run my clinic and that they consider me a any successful entrepreneur in the country.

She wouldn't describe herself as a techie but Vicki Shows keep up with trends. "There is as much going on in the cosmetic surgery and dermatology industry, so you always have to keep up-to-date to experience with," she says.

To the competition but on the heels of this Superwoman woman, Belo has upped the ante and moved on to new business ventures.

SONY Ericsson honored Dr. Vicki Belo (second from left) and son Quark (left) at the Power Generation Fortune during Philippine Fashion Week 2006. With them are Sony Ericsson marketing manager Patrick Lavrago (third from right) and fellow parents-child honorees Manny and Iga Gallardo (third and fourth from left), and Sabina and Colin Magat-Lopez

DR. VICKI Belo with director son Quark Henares. Quark says, "My mom is a very creative and daring person. She keeps on breaking the mold. Before, no one wanted to be a dermatologist but now everyone's into it."

"There is a whole side world out there! I have been called the 'Ambassador of Beauty' for the Philippines and have been packing our country as a world-class cosmetic surgery destination. We have very good doctors, nurses, facilities and there is hardly any language barrier with the rest of the world. I think in a few years we will be a major player in the medical tourism field."

Tony Feleman honored Belo and son Quark—among other outstanding parent-child pairs—for their videos and the traits they have shared in their respective professions at the Power Generation Forum during Philippine Fashion Week 2006.

Tracing Henry Sy's steps in selling- II

1985—SM opens its first provincial supermall in the Quezon City suburbs. With its cinemas, shopping and dining environment, Science Museum, and Travelers Lounge, SM City Cubao became a favorite destination of shoppers in the Metro's Visayas region.

1999—SM City Bais opens in the Jose Rizal Diversion Road (now Benigno Aquino Jr. Road), close to the city's airport and accessible to residents of Negros and other neighboring islands.

AFTER PERFECTING SAN JUAN BUILDING SM MODEL Even in 1985, despite criticisms and pessimists from the business sector, expert Henry Sy proved his critics wrong. The mall remains one of the most popular in the country.

From 1990 to 1999, he went on an expansive binge, opening nearly a mall every year.

2001—SM City Baguio and SM City Fairview open. Located in Aguinaldo Highway, SM City Baguio serves shoppers in Cordillera and in other Cordilleran areas. SM City Fairview, on the other hand, serves customers in the north Metro area.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of EQUITABLE PCI BANK, INC., will be held on May 23, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the Francisca Santiago Hall, Mezzanine Floor, Equitable PCI Bank Tower I, Makati Avenue corner H. V. dela Costa Street, Makati City, Metro Manila, to consider and approve the matters set forth in the following Agenda:

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Certification of Notice and Quorum
III. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Stockholders Meeting held on July 19, 2005
IV. Presentation of Annual Report
V. Approval and Ratification of Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors, the duly Constituted Committees and Corporate Officers
VI. Election of the Board of Directors
VII. Appointment of External Auditor
VIII. Other Business
IX. Adjournment

The record date for the determination of the stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, said meeting is fixed at the close of business hours on March 1, 2006.

The last day for presenting (unsolicited) proxies to the Corporate Secretary for validation shall be on May 13, 2006 and the hours for the validation of proxies shall be convened on May 19, 2006.

Please bring any form of identification in order to facilitate registration.

(sgd) ATTY. LUIS HRA. G. LIRANZA
Corporate Secretary

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TOP Outsourcing Performance Inc. president Maria Bryce Fabro (left), VP Notice Maria Vivance (2nd from right) and disabled rights advocate Tina Llanos-Maloles (right) flank the newcomers.

PHOTOS BY VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER CEBU BUREAU

Sunday **BIZ**

Outsourcing ventures provide light to blind

By Vincent Cabreza
Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—THE BLIND HAVE seen the light, thanks to the outsourcing trend.

A city-based medical transcription firm hired this week a visually impaired teacher and a blind postal worker, both trained locally to digitize (convert the medical information and documents).

The outsourcing industry is also tapping blind people to handle call center chores, which reportedly suit the temperament of many of the visually challenged.

Four players in the musical digital interface trade want Filipino blind musicians to produce music for an add on ring tones, or cellular telephone subscribers.

According to blind activist Tina Llanos-Maloles, the outsourcing industry has realized the potential workforce in the country's physically disabled population.

Now it's time for the blind to take up the challenge, says Maloles, who advocates wider job opportunities for the visually impaired.

Maria Bryce Fabro, president and

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Sunday LIFESTYLE
Lifestyle Section

CLOCKWISE from left: Margarita Fores, Myrna Segismundo, Jessie Sincioco, Glenda Barretto

Four chefs serve a smorgasbord of food ideas

ON A HOT AFTERNOON, Lifestyle had a most delicious chat with four of the most formidable women in the Philippine culinary scene—Glenda Barretto, Margarita Fores, Myrna Segismundo and Jessie Sincioco.

The subject was Kulinarya, an ambitious project here on transforming Filipino dishes in terms of preparation, presentation and taste. This is done with the Department of Tourism's big dream of putting Philippine cuisine on the world map, much like what the Chinese, the Japanese, the Thai and, of late, the Vietnamese have done.

Not surprisingly, the chefs arrived with macks for the occasion. Barretto brought Gilda Bistro Roxy cone bearing Cookie's Milk Panna Cotta with Sago, Fores Myrna with slices of bread from Café Ilustrado, and Leslie Plan Sincioco offered a box of Princess Carmen and her famous Ciabatta breads. And Segismundo dressed up with Torres, Baked Brie and Fruit in Filo Purses and to-die-for Queso de Bola Cheesecake. All this, despite having to face a "grilling" by the Lifestyle staff.

PLAYTIME
By the Staff

Barretto is vice president and chief operating executive of Via Mare Corp. Myrna runs Cafe Segismundo and Café Bola. Segismundo is managing director of Restaurant 1501 at the MIDAS complex. Sincioco is responsible for Le Soufflé Restaurant and Wine Bar chain with branches in Fort Residences, Boulevard and Glorietta's Top of the City. Clearly, if any group can whip up a lovely Filipino dish into an international bestseller, this is it. Not to mention the two male chefs involved in the process—Claude Tayag and Conrad Catalan.

A collaborative effort among the Asia Society, the Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines, Asian Publications, and the Department of Tourism, Kulinarya finally took off the planning board after five years when giant food company San Miguel Foods Inc. came into the picture with funding. The Kulinarya group has chosen 40 Filipino dishes to standardize.

What we have to correct, they all agree, is the Filipino attitude of looking down at their own food.

Everyone has been wondering about this—why has Filipino cuisine not reached the same level of popularity as other Asian cuisine, even that of Vietnam?

Margarita Fores (MF): Ma'lan Orginiscoli said the other day that the reason Filipino cuisine hasn't made it much is that we ourselves, in the Philippines, don't really look at our cuisine in a good way, passing it's something more pambahay. And, usually, when there are foreign guests, Filipinos are always asking themselves: "Are they going to be impressed or not? Should we do something else?"

You're saying we're not confident about our own food?

MF: Yes, we're not confident. We're always clear about what it really is.

Is that what Kulinarya will do?

MF: Try to standardize it. So, even in restaurants in the provinces, if they use, say, the standardized recipe that Kulinarya formulates for a classic recipe like adobo, the DOT [Department of Tourism] will identify a certified Kulinarya practitioner that can do a classic Filipino adobo.

Are you telling us that we have to change the way we cook adobo or Sinigang at home?

Glenda Barretto (GB): No. Not long, like Sinigang, it won't be as memorable as we normally like it. Como kasi sa ating mga mamahin, mura tumitap.

Are you also saying that we should use a particular toyo or suka in cooking?

GB: That's a thought. (Laughter)

MF: The challenge here is finding [what is] most readily available if you are cooking Filipino food whether in New York, Italy ...

GB: Yes, in the US we use apple cider vinegar.

MF: Like the Pinoys in Italy, when they make kare-kare, they use artichokes instead of pancit canton.

GB: Similar ang texture.

The adobo in Luzon, it's saucy and in the Visayas, it's dry. What will be standard?

MF: That's what we have to decide on. (Laughs) As I was saying, it is going to be a new challenge. We will cook different types and

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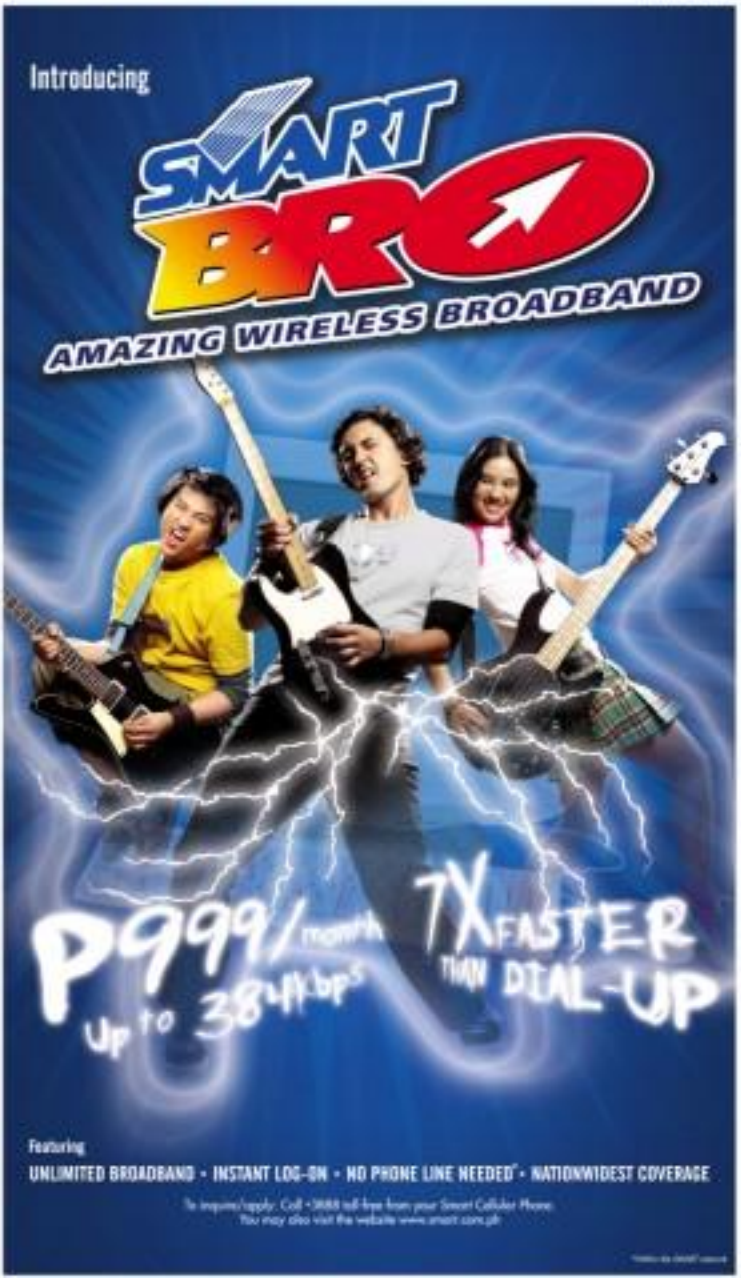

'Now we're using a lot of sigarilyas. Just the other day in Pepato, we used patani as siding and it's really like the lima beans'

Four chefs serve a smo

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we will decide among ourselves and with clicos which we will adopt. Pure dessert menu it's the adobo never, nor should it allow because each family has its own, each cook has his own.

You should also be creative.

MF: Yes, but, at least, there should be some type of adobo that will be known all over.

What other dishes are on the list?

GB: Adobo, sinigang, lechon, pancit, menudo, kare-kare, pinakbet, kilawin, ang...

Dinuguan?

GB: No, it has blood eh. Although the French are very adventurous. French and Germans, they like the flavor because madre nasi and very savory. Kasi they also like our takuan bahoy.

Maybe you should invite foreigners?

Jessie Sindoyo (JS): Yes, that's a good idea.

GB: Actually we could ask someone [Scott] Gandler, also chef Cecille [Sycoco].

MF: ...and they know what their counterpart will appreciate.

GB: Yung mga kumakain ng bagoong ha will know what their grocery mama have as **aversion** to. Amoff is important and that's the problem with bagoong.

Could you standardize the paste and the bagoong?

GB: You can buy paste pero, in more expensive than the commercial paste. It's like Thai or Vietnamese paste.

JS: Actually our special paste is better than the Thai paste kaya nung they don't sell it commercially, that's the problem, and so what people know about the patis is the purgative one. You really have to check on the commercial aspect, like the patis that they sell, if we want to standardize that, too.

MF: I think what they have for export is already tempered.

JS: To a level.

GB: I buy pero.

MF: Pero sa bagoong, iba iba.

What is questionable about the bagoong is its preparation.

GB: Ay, correct. [Laughter] Making bypersonally prepared bagoong. [Laughter] I'm telling you because I process bagoong. **Anong nakalilito ito sa bagoong?** Yung mga ano... [points to one of her fingers] plastic.

MF: Hand-Aid?

GB: Band-Aid. That's why as much as bagoong. It's too salty anyway. We used to boiling water to loosen the saltiness and then we simmer for at least one hour. And I just make [pin to garlic, olive oil.

MF: Ibon ibe guimanes lang. Hindoll, when it's raw from the garapon...

GB: Hindoops no! [Laughter]

MF: Then just the smell of adobo... it's really the smell of the Filipino household. [Laughter]

Ani there desserts and goodies on the list?

JS: Ninguno ka is taking care of the leche flan and the cassavas.

GB: Leche ngas we want Spanish influence and that also makes the dessert list in the Philippines so wide. Sis, we have the pero from our Malay influence.

If you go to Spain, can you order cassavas?

MF: That I don't know. I guess, Tita, they have that, no?

GB: Yeah, they have.

JS: But they do it in milk.

MF: And custard.

JS: We have guinumis, camaru cake, leche flan, cassavas, halo-halo, banana-banana-camaya-tsaya, mga bitsin, halo-halo-pandan gelatin... Sagpo-sagpo eh. Ay, guinumis-halo-halo, sagot guimanes.

So considered dessert ang sago't gulamanay? Or ito beverage ano.

GB: Beverage ano.

MF: Even the punch—there are three or four.

Siguar round-tailored yung palabok, bagkog or whatever, ito-ito eh.

MF: Pero **dampog**, it's there on the list. It's nice.

But isn't the traditional sinampog made only of rice and garlic?

MF: Yes.

JS: Pero yung ito silinigaan ng kung ano-ano.

MF: Yung sa Negros, yung bukit ng **lansang sinamara in Bacolod. Last** siguro they've stopped.

JS: In Bulacan also, if you do sinampog, you put toasted garlic [pad to.

GB: Sa Aklan version, we add the salt in the rice and mash the salt with the rice before frying. Para tinapa na Cuba making lumpi Scarabian.

MF: And I guess, generally [for] the sinampog, we really have to use the old rice.

What about medium?

GB: Actually we can include lechon cooked in annatto-achuete oven because I do lechon de leche.

Where are you doing your food tastings?

GB: San Miguel.

MF: One recipe di ka. Yes! Even if you have the recipe, what's more important is the cooking eh.

GB: Yes sir, Important, the timing, the temperature, especially in roasting, basting. Ang kita nilang mga Pinoy is...

MF: ...high ang spicy?

GB: You know what it does to the food? It toughens meat, the meat shrinks and sagka-dry.

MF: At saka ang daming gas sa pagsasaing. It's a relaxed thing and you really have to watch them. Wapa-gestuff yung food [demonstrates stuck]. [Laughs]

JS: At a launch in San Miguel, one foreigner asked why Filipinos always overcook their seafood. Like prawns, you cook it so long, it becomes rubbery.

MF: It has a lot to do with high temperature.

Like corn, I didn't know that the longer you cook it, the harder it gets! [Laughter] Nagiging tae-tae...

MF: Curacha! [Laughter]

Yung mga Chinese they just stir-fry.

MF: That's also the Indian way, they serve it brown their garlic. They just water it, eh says 'di ka nung?

GB: Mapait na. [Laughs]

MF: Do you think the Spaniards took garlic that way?

GB: No, I don't think so. They long sauteeyan nagegrow.

MF: Si our gita nanaco ay abuse the vegetables.

How much, would you say of our food would be of Asian influence? Malaysian, Thai, Indonesian?

GB: A lot of our desserts are Malay to influence.

JS: Yung tapis-tapis na yan, very Malay.

GB: Mas ano pa nga sila, they have the lechon Cebu.

MF: Dyan natin nakuha ito-ibang bahay.

GB: Ilocano ako alang ako na di kasing pino ng kuh-kuh kapis pero mas madaming layers, mas maganda.

JS: At saka yung colors nila, parang pastel colors.

GB: It's more White; yung mga gawa gawa natin. Yung mga Malay, they also have their adobo. Ang mediar talaga is toobaran.

What about the main dishes?

MF: The ones with cream sauce siguro.

GB: Actually ang more Spanish natin are the Bicol dishes, yung mga morcon, pochero. Di ba yung Bicolano?

MF: ...Even adobo, 'di ba. Tita, yung mga pochero, cocido pang-family get-together.

GB: Oo, pang-family yan.

MF: And I love the Chavacar.

GB: Yung mga pancit, lumpia, noodles friend dishes?

MF: Hmmgyin Indonesian...

Ah Chinese and Malay.

Meron bang counterpart ang kare-kare?

MF: I guess yung mga peanut sauce ng Indonesian for the heavy thing is, as Claude says, to make kare-kare, we have to use improved peanut butter, not local. [Laughter] Isn't that a disgrace?

Roasted peanuts? Di ba?

GB: Roasted peanuts but the small ones and non-salted pre.

Yung gaiding sa Mindanao? Eh yung mukunkil?

GB: Malapit kasi pre. Use the small ones. You roast them with the skin on. At saka be-balenos. Ay, ang sarap!

But is it true you can use peanut butter?

GB: Wag kang pong illy's taste, mamaan. [Laughter] But you know, some Americans like our Lily's peanut butter. Kung anong ki-nagisnan nilang kasi. Would you believe, in Bataan Bataan ma cousin ko or anywhere in Europe, ang sarap-sarap ng mga bucire nila ha? Pero nakakain me sa Filipino stores...Ewe! [Laughter]

What is your favorite Filipino food? Make-think.

GB: Adobo, sinigang.

JS: I believe on calamansi, siempadalang sauce.

MF: Taba ng calamansi, palatos sa fish, flamgo-style.

Mirasa Supimomda (MS): Adobo, pakaw and guinumang-lapun.

JS: Have you tried the siempadalang sauce, native chicken, and ang ipapagamit ino yung sabong? Ang lamgo. Tan tang, ganun gyaso. Pitong pili yun, sero ang pinag-aralan.

MF: That's Bulacan style!

JS: Yes.

Pero may sawsawan di ba yung sinempadalang sauce?

JS: Actually ginagamit na yan ha, if you want, you can dip it in calamansi and patis.

MF: Every dish has its own sawsawan.

GB: Yeah, bahgtad eh.

JS: Culinarya should have a chapter just on sawsawan. Ilangtao?

MS: While we were talking about it, we were seeing packaging in rang packaging ang chapter and sawsawang yung ilang reporters. Even the origins of the cuisine so that people will have an understanding...

JS: I think the origin is one of the most important that are.

Okay, what's your favorite Filipino dessert?

MF: Hinamnat na saba. Hands down.

GB: Turon si Myrna! [Laughter]

JS: Ay ako aspin aspin. The best.

MS: Ske, bibingka or Tita Brenda [laughter]. Yung bibingka na nakagang galapong.

JS: Yo-yo-yoping. I like banana also with crushed red pepper and sugar.

MF: Halo-halo... And, I don't know... We're the only country that eats banana with our meals. I eat adobo with banana. Or mango sa't adobo and rice. Yung gang-ahin ng mga? Is Mga di ba lubos...?

JS: ...Dried banana.

MF: Actually, if we don't have any dessert in the house, he'll just open the nata de coco and put it ice bowl.

MS: Guava, kamoldin.

What particular Filipino dish won't you eat?

MF: Dinuguan.

GB: Ang di ko ma-take yung ano, es...

JS: Chicken?

GB: O yun.

JS: Sariap yun, adobong sakaplang? I eat anything and everything. [Laughter] Like the thing ng lapunsik? It's the most delicious thing.

How about you, Myrna, what won't you eat?

How do you think will the Bali project help?

MS: Well, if it's used, it will definitely the headwards for how Filipino food... be projected and how Filipino food is... So it will be stimulated. So having with Japanese and Thai and other countries are certain dishes that we wanted to know by like [kilo cuchi], tarbitul, tempura.

JS: Sukiyaki...

MS: With Thai it's bun thai, Phnom tahky rice and mangoes. Besides Cambodia not so offhat like this one very common.

GB: It has been like five years since I thought about this. But at least it's interesting.

And the role of San Miguel in t

[Laughter]

GB: Pero.

How do you handle complaints or **the genuineness of Filipino food?**

MF: Well like, for example, we have cooking action with lots of the menu choice of cut we use, lumpo, tumbong, tapa ng sulo pang summer yan. Did you behoved lang to ani know what ran ra? The only difference they know is lanzan. They don't know what would be in Cuba dishes. Stewing cuts, chuck, prime rib, walking tuenderloin, strip steak. Hopefully we will address that. And you take pang summer yan. Did you to overcook our vegetables. That's thing you correct in a dish like pinakbet example. We'll correct the cultivation as well as the dimensions of the vegetable of dishes instead of labasit.

And what the regions are represented Kabisayan?

MS: Yes.

Kasi baka may magkampo.

MS: Cebu magkampo siguradong their chinigang, yung binatawang tilim la, it's actually their sinigang. It's bland by the Tagalog standards kasi they use sampalok or tamarind. Ang la ng manok.

GB: Tamarind lang or cuke-spring-

How about the north? How about dinuguan?

JS: Ano bang mga food nila? Sa Ilocandia-region?

GB: Bibimbasa is spicy, cooked with cassi milk, yellow ginger, tapa ng bisaya sa Ilocosnatan.

MS: Then again, I guess we're not going by region in a way. We're really by the most popular dishes that we were very well.

Sisendo dosse, what's the most popular?

Sili and JS: Adobo.

MS: Adobo pa rin.

Ito daw't think Sunday!

GB: Then we very said lumpia.

JS: Pinoy!

GB: Kaya lang available to us regardless... latay ng kinsong lumpia, hat, gulay, shad...

JS: So when you tell them you are my party, ay I'm busy! I'm cooking, ay gol [Lumpia and I [Laughter]

MF: Where we were in New York we mean, that was the way that we were sure Studio 54. We would bring pancit lucsin for the dessists. [Laughter] babot na kol.

And then if you say you're going to lumpia and pancit, your American will bring pa their relatives. [Laughter]

MF: It's also not as emphasize as lumpia abroad as compared with adobo. So the Filipinos will cook it and pancit more than adobo...

MS: My sisters have learned to cook adobo sa dicciona. Instead of inventing the cows. That's something you want to consider. Kasi it can really braised dish. It's actually wrong stewed adobo because it's really a braised dish.

So how do you improve the lasa adobo?

MF: You don't need to. The other was at Spices for a Thai food lecture, their food was all brower. [Laughter]

So it's not a valid complaint that food is all brown?

SINIGTAANG Bile-Bile

PRINCESS Carmen

BANANA Turon

BANGUS Macau with bread

Yung sabo, patis, calamansi, tsya. Ang daming variations for certain dishes: calamansi-patis, yung ibs calamansi-sili lang, suka at calamansi, suka and bagoong, at toyo and calamansi, toyo and suka. Ito pinoy on kung ng pagkain yan.

Ay yung Bacilocos, sarpasin lahat pan **pak sawsawan? Ito pati sawsawan nun** dinrilled na?

MS: I think we will have variation on sawsawan because it's very unique, in a way, to Asia, particularly the Philippines. For example, in Israel, there is no concept of sawsawan. There is no concept of a dip. So when we did the Filipino food festival there, they were asking what all these little saucers were because they had no sawsawan there. So, Kambogia, it's so alien to them. So if we're going to go international...

Pa can make the sawsawan the lasa...

MS: That's what Sisen then wrote in the book ... there was adobo on one page and then the next page was the sawsawan.

For example, we refuse to have a concept of dressing di ba. Ito actu wala tayong dressing. Mikey [Pernia] and I were saying, dressing lang asim, suka, pamalasa, asukal. Di ba that's our vinaigrette already? It is a way sigaro because we were not introduced to the concept of dressing, ang sawsawan natin is something we can equate with it...

JS: No need to complete without the sawsawan. That's why there's always patis. Ta lagang! Think every household in the Philippines would have a container for patis.

GB: It's not even present in the Visayas. They call it toyo.

MF: Toyo! And they use the word toyo for patis.

GB: Eat yung pinatisan is cooked with toyo.

MF: What they call toyo there is patis. In Bacolod it's bahgtad.

MS: Bahtsa are yung tawag ... [laughter] If you want patis, you ask for Bahtsa. If you ask for patis, you'll get toyo.

MF: That's in Bacolod.

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At the launch in San Miguel, one foreigner asked why Filipinos always overcook their seafood. Like prawns, you cook it so long, it becomes rubbery'

orgasbord of food ideas

Kulinarya will set the benchmark for how Filipino food should be projected

If you were to cook just one dish for a foreigner to convince him that Filipino food is good, what would it be? 'I don't think I can serve only one dish...'

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Four chefs serve a smorgasbord of food ideas

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Are you going to come up with a menu for restaurants?

MS: Actually this menu is more commercial than it is domestic. But it can be really more for commercial use. I think we should start with the restaurants.

I imagine that's what the Department of Tourism will do.

MS: Yes. To her they said they were going to open a café in Tokyo.

They have one slated for Moscow.

JS: And one of the objectives of the book is to make the Philippines a culinary destination.

MS: They're realized that, you know, a big chunk of tourism is really culinary.

MS: Right. Particularly to the provinces (I bet! But you know what? Mga umuuwing probinsya eh. How many foreigners go to Boracay, to Bohol, to all those places and they love the food? So how is it ranked? Nobody complains about that.

JS: I guess it's also because they have so many choices.

RH: And also because they don't know how to eat. (Laughter)

Has talent always been a big issue?

MS: I'll tell you one thing: We don't have one food. It's a professional chef, that is gonna multiplying by the second. So to a foreigner who understands food, he sees something cold in the cornbeefs, ang tingin sa iyo, equal sa pagkain na yon, mashasi na yan. SABI na, hard fit na ang tingin nila noong iyon. So ano, okay lang. But sanitation and hygiene standards dictate that food has to be hot to germs do not survive. Iis di natin pan nationalities, lalo na sa problema.

But we must be doing something right.

RH: Tingnan mo nga, we're the only hotel in the country na SARO, no food for

MS: No, because we are the gurus! (Laughter)

RH: In a nutshell, we are the gurus!

In the beginning, for example, can introduce dishes in all that salt?

MS: Yes. In fact, that's why we have to give. And they're very strict, they don't let forgoing in in other countries.

MS: We're going to do a week-long Filipino food festival in Shangri-La Mactan this month. And Micky said how strange that we would get invited to do a Filipino food festival in the Philippines. (Laughter) In Cebu. Because the kind of Filipino food they have there is very different from what you have here. Ginigata na lang, for example, malayo. Yung lechon nun nasosweets dito, dun wala. It ba yung mga gamong klase. So we sent our menus for the whole week. The executive chef e-mailed me yesterday and said they had concerns about hygiene and sanitation, about serving lechon.

RH: Ha-ha! That's like ostrich!

MS: I know.

But they don't have a problem with sushi?

MS: I know. Parang sa lang maki-anges... (Laughter) Iiga sa iga, gaano. Sure, just to show you, internationally speaking, they're very concerned. So barricading alone, say

> Filipino food is not really broken down into appetizer, soup, main course, dessert

drink with eggs, with raw eggs, bawal na yan, siguro in seafood making because of their salmonella concerns. Slamming na food pa. Japanese restaurants. Subby (Lopez) just got food poisoning from eating at a Japanese restaurant that I won't mention here.

Why not? Off the record.

RH: Nalas, lumpiehin! (Laughter)—sa lumpiehin... (Laughter)

Are you surprised about this project?

MS: Yes, very much.

RH: Actually, challenging for us.

MS: Me realized too long, not like, well, you know, I don't know any other cuisine. Only Filipino. That's what I grew up with. It's very nice to work with it because it's your own.

JS: I mean, I think this should've been done a long time... most probably if this was done a long time ago, Philippine cuisine would already have a place in the world map of cooking.

MS: The head of Asia Society was saying yesterday that Filipino chefs were gaining recognition but not Filipino food.

How true. And they're working with other cuisine.

MS: Yeah...

JS: But it's not only this group, the chefs, that should be involved but also the Department of Health. The government should help us.

The schools? They have to teach them... They don't di ba, in the culinary schools?

MS: No, in fact, the only culinary school that offer Filipino cuisine as a subject is...

(Sing)

MS: Yes. It's CCA (Center for Culinary Arts). When I was speaking to the graduates one time, I said I would like to request that you include Filipino cuisine in your curriculum and they said they were the only school that offered...

Maybe because they think it's something they already know? Pandaliway nga ang sabi ... Ayun ang problema...

RH: Pero I think what will also make this successful is (for us) to have a unified mindset. We have to agree that maybe we need to compromise in certain areas just to be able to come up with something marketable. We have to sort of decide on being regional also. We have to be clear about the goal.

And I think the project should go with the whole campaign of being proud to be a Filipino. Because if you're not... you'll always be saying, oh I cannot take this in a Filipino resto because it's all brown. Or it doesn't look good.

If you serve it in resto just one dish for a foreigner to convince him that Filipino food is good, what would it be?

JS: Just one dish? It has to be adobo. Because more or less they've familiar with the taste already. So it's just a matter of presenting it in a cute way that they will really appreciate it and cook it in a way that's not too offending.

RH: Also lumpiang gulay. Fried. I think people always love fried food. And that's the one thing you'll note from Filipinos...

GS: I don't think I can serve only one dish. (Laughter)

RH: It's a good question kay Tita Glenda!

GS: It has to be adobo but adobo that is like garnished with lumpia, with a serving of fried fish...

Lumpiavadovil

MF: Di ba we can't eat with just one utensil... That's really the nature of our cuisine.

GS: I agree. At saka adobo-adobo lahat. (Laughter)

MS: We're not one-dish meal people.

JS: Really. Meal has to be shared.

Name pairings nga pun eh. If ba adobo with... what?

MS: Pancake. (Laughter)

JS: Kare-kare!

MS: Adobo with sinigang, adobo and sarciado, Pakete and sarciado, relleno.

GS: Tomorrow's menus lang ha.

Okay, this is a really important question. In a standard bahu-bahu, how many ingredients should be there? (Laughter)

GS: Anywhere from 10-12. (Sandamukang bahu. (Laughter)

Those we do bed-in-a abroad, we try to do it from scratch. Ilang sarong beses, usually the three kinds of beans are available anywhere in the world. But the rest of the ingredients like luteng, sagang, sasa—yes, saga boiled na yan. But if we use them straight from bottle, they don't taste anything. You still have to cook them. What we do is we cook them again to syrup, and then add flavoring. [She] dumps ...

MF: ... Or pandan.

Bahu-bahu is good only with evap milk.

RH: Can you imagine that you'd go over for canned milk than fresh? Like, when you are in the US and you want to eat steamed rice so if you are in Saigon, and you get fresh milk from the grocery—ha! You'd look for Carnation in the store!

GS: But you know in Japan, we tried to thicken the bahu-bahu with pureed white beans. It thickened, it made the bahu-bahu richer, parang Bacon's tsa. (Laughter)

RH: Sarap!

Its kasunod n'yo yung saga nuvera na yan na standard recipe?

GS: Correct. (Laughter)

RH: Even the proportions. Sinigang can and using real tamarind, for example.

GS: Ako 'yung sinigang lemon, sprite.

Pati vegetables. Bamboo (yung ginagamit sa sinigang). So what you're trying to do is, when a foreigner goes to a Filipino restaurant, in Hong Kong or Madrid or Paris, he will get the same taste.

GS: Exactly. That's the goal. Isa't isang sangkap na ingredient ang experience kung yung sa-try sa sinigang ay sa-kwang nito.

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

A day in Segovia

THE ALCAZAR

This ancient Spanish town boasts of the Alcázar, which guidebooks say was an inspiration to Walt Disney for his fairytale castle in 'Sleeping Beauty'

By Richard C. Siguy
Correspondent

TO TAKE A BREAK from weeks of homework and quizzes, the gang and I decided to head out of town. Although there are endless choices in Madrid for taking in Spanish culture and history, there is much more to be gained from exploring the countryside.

Since Segovia came highly recommended (the United Nations heralded it as a World Heritage site in 1985), we decided to spend a day there to see what all the fuss was about.

Since I never got to experience traveling by train through the

TYPICAL street scene in the old town of Segovia (above); the gigantic Roman Aqueduct (left)

A VIEW from the Alcazar of the surrounding countryside

A day in Segovia

From page D1

Philippine countryside, doing so in Spain was something to relish. Setting off early for the Warren Montserrat route station and the one-hour ride is our choice destination, we board Spanish trains are only efficient, modern, spacious and comfortable, but also relatively very affordable.

The 60-kilometer Madrid-Segovia route, for example costs 3.45 euros (about P200) one-way a price an ordinary Filipino worker can still afford. Oddly enough, it's cheaper than paying the 6.10 euros price for a regular movie ticket in the Spanish capital.

Medieval city

The way to Segovia was through a country side filled with rocky but verdant hills and mountains and dotted with countless olive trees, the Mediterranean evergreen that makes possible the production of olive oil, a staple of Spain's gastronomic culture.

Approaching our destination, we were greeted by the sight of a medieval city in the distance. From this "contemporary" part of town, we decided it was worth the effort to walk all the way to the old city, for a glimpse of a place located in the Spanish region of Castilla y León situated directly on the northwestern border of Madrid.

On reaching the limits of medieval Segovia, what appeared as a fantasy series of arches between buildings loomed larger and larger as we approached. The walls around the structure led us to the ancient, impressively colossal Roman aqueduct that easily dwarfed the city.

History has it that the Romans built it in the 1st century with nothing to hold the gigantic granite blocks together save for an ingenious architectural technique of leaving stones in a manner that took advantage of gravity although its function of supplying the city with fresh water from nearby mountains may no longer exist. It lives on as the monument that distinguishes Segovia the most from Spain's other noteworthy travel sites.

After the usual ritual of the "Diary Kodak moment" around the aqueduct, the gang and I decided to head toward the local tourist office to help us get started. A quick look at our maps made us realize that we would need a few days at least to visit all the recommended sites, so we decided to focus on a few points of interest.

GOTHIC cathedral

Shades of Intramuros

First on the agenda was an easy hike up to meet the massive city-state structure found to the southeast. From here, we took in a breathtaking view of the surrounding village and mountains, not to mention the glorious Spanish sunshine. A pleasant stroll through the streets of the old town reminded me a bit of walking around Intramuros in Manila, but the chill in the air and the lack of gazebo-style pavement denied it Eastperson-style park brought me right back to Spain.

Walking past the obligatory Plaza Mayor (every town in Spain has one), the many tourist shops, and the ever-present cafés playing host to scores of visitors, we headed toward the Gothic cathedral. Although relatively sparse in terms of artwork compared to other Spanish cathedrals, its marvelously detailed altar, majestic dome, the huge church interior with high vaulted ceilings, and the immense courtyard surrounded by gigantic elaborately-carved gothic style windows were impressive enough to make up for the lack of adornments.

With all the walking about, our stomachs now accustomed to the very late Spanish lunch period of between 2-3 p.m., gave us little choice but to head to a nearby restaurant. What to eat? Since we were in the region of the renowned cochinillo, we decided to go for broke and try it. As we dug through the crispy skin into the very tender flesh, I couldn't help thinking of our very own version: the lechon de leche. Accompanied by a serving of the local version of French fries and a few glasses of local red wine, we were sufficiently nourished to be able to continue exploring the town.

Impressive structure

Amused by museums, churches, museums and shops that we passed, we didn't realize how late it was getting. Forgoing the Jewish museum depicting medieval life in Segovia, before they were expelled from Spain in 1492 (the same year Christopher Columbus, but not known as Christopher Columbus, discovered America), we proceeded to the Alcázar of Segovia, an impressive structure that guidebooks say was an inspiration to Walt Disney for his fairy-tale castle in "Sleeping Beauty."

The long walk from the center of town led us through a cypress-old cassia, winding along ancient walls which protected the city from incursions of long ago. The view of the surrounding countryside was simply inspiring, even in cautious shades everywhere, interrupted every now and then by a medieval building or two. The evening daylight bathed the stone with inexplicable glow, a view that could bring tears to the eye.

With only minutes left before closing, we learned that visits to the Alcázar were divided into two: the castle itself with its tapestries, portraits, paintings, a collection of medieval armor, and the imposing tower. As we entered the *drawbridge* over the moat, some of the group decided to enter the castle while the rest proceeded to the tower.

The climb up the tower was an interesting if physically challenging treat. At the top, we were treated to a view of the distant city center and the immense cathedral on one side, a view of the castle's walls and rooftops on another, and on the remaining sides, a view of the surrounding landscape of nearby towns and open country under the glow of the setting sun.

As we leaned out at the view below, we thought it amazing how people could build a structure so beautiful and solid in such great a height without the aid of modern technology.

And speaking of heights, we quickly realized as we looked down that the moat we passed as we crossed the drawbridge into the castle was actually an abyss where, according to our guidebook, in the 14th century, a monumental negligently dropped an heir to the throne into the depths below and, to avoid being punished, quickly flung himself next to the boy. With that knowledge in hand, we were more than twice careful on the way down the tower. Some things decline over time, but the almost endless drop into the depths of an abyss isn't one of them.

As we rushed back from the Alcázar to the center of the old city and to the train station, we couldn't help but feel disappointed for the lack of time to explore all that Segovia had to offer. But waiting on the train as it took us back to Madrid, we were comforted by the thought that a second trip back was on the cards some day.

The author is a student in Madrid on a scholar of the Spanish government for a year. He takes advantage of his free time by visiting nearby destinations. He identifies he is an English and Spanish professor, part-time theater actor and host for corporate events.

E-mail the author at evajpg@hotmail.com

THE AUTHOR (second row, extreme left) with schoolmates in Madrid, on a trip to Segovia

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Puerto Galera visit

THE SINGAPORE TOURISM BOARD-Philippines (STB-P) area director, Poonam Chang, and assistant manager for tourism marketing, Lisa Bonifacio, paid a courtesy call recently on Mayor Antonio Ilimosa of Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro.

The visit was part of the island-to-island collaboration marketing and promotional campaign of STB-P and Puerto Galera that will run until June 15.

Meanwhile, Puerto Galera registered in 2005 an 87 percent increase in tourist arrivals, 2.2 million from 2004's 1.1 million.

Puerto Galera thus was named last year one of the most beautiful bays in the world by The Most Beautiful Bays in the World Club, an organization supported by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco). Puerto Galera is part of Unesco's Man and Biosphere Reserves program.

Rebates

Travel anywhere with your Citibank credit card and enjoy zero percent interest on purchases and zero rates on cash withdrawals you charge to the Plus, the installment plan.

Until May 31, you can enjoy zero percent interest for three months installment plans at South Star Travel (Makati, Ma. Orosa, Lago Buhay and Legaspi Village), Dynamic Travel, Destination Travel and TBI-CIS. Cardholders can pay their travel expenses in three to 24 months. Cardholders may also avail of a one percent rebate on total bills, to which limit varies by holder's ready up to P10 million for travel accident insurance and travel inconvenience protection for missed or delayed flights and lost luggage when they charge their tickets.

Silver cardholders get travel insurance coverage for missed or delayed flight and lost luggage when they use their card for ticket purchase. Call South Star Travel at 892-07-07 loc. 208, 209, and 268, 895-7000 ext 116/1000 or e-mail customer.care@southstar-travel.com; Dynamic at (0406) 8908-88 and (0906) 4402-44 or e-mail dynamic.southstar@yahoo.com.ph or Ma. Rosa; and 0905-8054201 and (0920) 207-1101 e-mail tbcsupport@yahoo.com or Tacloban Office; parties joining expenses are deluxe travel to Hotel Supreme Boracay, Dynamic Travel Inc., 3149895-98 to Makati and 3433888 to Greenhills and 316-0202 ext. 8 or 8904-8908/911 in Cebu and 981-5444-48 in Cebu, Mob. Dot Citibank at 9908888 or visit www.citibank.com.ph.

Privileges

Singapore Airlines offers travelling-size privileges for seven days after arrival in Manila for passengers who keep their boarding passes. Privileges include exclusive shopping and services discounts at The Podium Mall stores: Nails A-Go, ZEN, SMS, It-Form, Bedak Jewelry Art, Lacoste footwear, La Luxella de Paris, Mikasa, Rainbow Window, Sensual Sensations, Dada Lingerie and Lamps, Toy Kingdom, Bubbly footwear, Attraction Plus, Color Me Mine, Bond's for Fresh Salmon, STB Laptop Sales & Services, The Dental Care Center and The Picture Corporation. Also, Silk Cosmetic and Fitness Wear Outlets. Visit www.singapore-air.com/boardingpasses. Call 1151844, 1151851 or 2894-3000.

New hotel

The new Novotel Citygate Hong Kong, adjacent to Citygate shopping complex, is a stylish addition to Tung Chung, a business and residential hub. It is close to the airport and tourist attractions like Hong Kong Disneyland and Ngong Ping 360 Cable Car. Novotel Citygate is also near AsiaWorld-Expo, which has opened an "on site hotel option." Call (852)2071-1188 or visit sarah@novotelcitygate.com/citygate-pictures.com.

KUALA LUMPUR TOUR

The Universal Holidays Inc. with Malaysian Airlines invited some 14 tours and travel operators for a six days/five nights tour in Kuala Lumpur recently. Cristina Pangan (Universal Holiday Inc.), Blue dot Rosario (N. Dot Rosario Tours and Transport Services), See Yiu Ying Daniela (Andre Travel), Alicia Dumas (TravelTech Travel and Tours), Marchelyn Lucap (Mikwan Travel and Tours), Nancy Dot Rosario (N. Dot Rosario Tours and Transport Services), Jay Tongco (Manila International Travel), Catherine Dumlao (Yip Mart Services), Pete L. Dacanay (Dac Travel and Tours), Manuel Serrano (Legend Travel and Tours), Rosario Bongabong Jr., (Spanish Holidays), Maria Ludivina Bandoc (Travelnet), Maria Cristina Cruz (Globetrotters Travel Corp.), Julie Capistrano (Antonio Express Travel), Jane Cynthia Wong (Consolidated Tours and Travel), Phillip Bajo (Lunar Travel and Tours).

THE BATIS Arcanin Resort brings you as close to nature as you want and yet near enough to the hub of Lucban. A bamboo-roofed hut and lake and ponds fed by a natural spring

An enchanting and 'enchanted' spot . . .

From page D1

(tel. 042-5607328; 0919-6650464; fax 042-5607411) brings you as close to nature as you want and yet near enough to the hub of Lucban. It is also just across from new Lucban crowd-favorite, the Oasis of Healing and Way of Purification and Kamay ni Hesus Healing Church (it's where healing priest Fr. Joseph "Suzy" Faller holds regular Sunday afternoon masses).

In the resort, you literally walk and sleep under the watchful eyes of Jesus as the tall image of the Christ at the top of the grotto towers over the surrounding countryside.

Owned by husband and wife Filomeno and Teresita Velez, Sole Arcanin sits at the foot of the mystical Banat Bundok: its two large swimming pools, children's pools, several ponds, a lake for fishing, and two or three small waterfalls are all fed by the spring Arcanin. Hence the name from the resort.

You can go swimming, fishing, camping, boating or simply just relax and enjoy the clean, fresh air, lush vegetation and the quiet with only the sounds of nature to disturb the peace.

Picnic spot

Originally called Pilindan sa Lucban, a picnic spot for local residents, the hidden decided to have the full-fledged Batis Arcanin resort for people who want to commune with nature for more than just a few hours.

They built thatch-roofed huts and a two-story student hotel. The structures were built on the side nearest the highway, pretty much keeping the old trees and greenery intact.

The results are enchanting and surprisingly unchanged: misty green scenery screened by thick foliage, the sips of pearled old branches and roots of ancient virgin pines. Sipping on delicately iced tea the various pools.

You almost expect to see fairies and nymphs gamboling about as you explore the hidden nooks and crannies connected by wooden bridges and stone steppe paths.

And if you have a craving for some of the delicacies Lucban is famous for, the restaurant at the ground floor of the hotel can offer you the longganisa and the pansit...among other things.

To get to Lucban and Batis Arcanin, you can either take the Batangas or Lucgane route. The Batangas route takes you through about five other Quezon towns before you reach Lucban. If you choose to go through Laguna, the Balayan route becomes your gateway to Quezon province.

A GIANT Jesus Christ keeps a watchful eye on surrounding communities.

KIDS take turn feeding with carrots fluffy white rabbits.

Family fun at the farm

SUMMER TIME, SUMMER TIME—when all little kids can visit the farm. Well, at least the children of Second Mom Childhood preschool. Ranging in age from 1 to 7 years, they eagerly boarded a bus recently with family and caregivers for a day of swimming with nature and experiencing life as a homestead at Sta. Elena Fun Farms in Sta Rosa, Laguna.

After an hour and a half drive from the city, the sights, sounds and smells of Sta. Elena greeted the children as they got off the bus and met their guide for the day, Farmer Nicky, gathered everyone in the small amphitheater for a warm welcome. After being divided into groups, the children took turns visiting different areas of interest.

What makes that place unique are the very accessible enclosures by the different animals inhabiting the farm. While ducks and chickens were wandering freely around the grounds, there were rabbit hutches, hatchery, ponds, a horse corral and even cute goat pen for the children to interact.

The kids started by visiting the rabbits. Everyone took turns feeding the rabbits with slivers of carrots as they hopped and jumped all around. Next stop was the guinea pig pen, where kids ran and petted the guinea pigs delighted everyone who tried it. Along the way, there were chickens to see as well as chicken coops and enticing pens for those who could stand the smell.

As in any farm, there were fruits and vegetables at Sta. Elena and the kids got to "pick" corn and take some farming tools as they searched the rest slowly munching their snack.

Then to shake their thirst, the wee ones got to make calamansi juice by squeezing the fruit and picking out the seeds. There was also sandwich making. Tomatoes, lettuce and cheese together make a delightful healthy snack. Or simply peanut butter on bread for those with a sweet tooth.

Braving the summer sun, the kids got a chance to go fishing in the well-stocked pond and talk about the one that got away. Those who wished to keep their catch were allowed to do so.

The last treat was the horse ride. For some of the kids, it was their first time to ride a real live horse.

The farm visit was just one of the educational but fun activities at Second Mom, which offers a progressive curriculum for Kinder to Grade 1, and is at Doors 1 Philippine Arena, Ibaba City. Call 8597410 or 8352602.

CHILDREN of Second Mom Children preschool spend a day in a real farm.

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Beginning May 1,
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See Flyers for details.

THE GROTTO of Healing and Way of Purification draws people even outside the Pahiyas season.

An enchanting and 'enchanted' spot in Quezon

Text and photos by Linda B. Bohilo

IF YOU'RE WANTING TO ATTEND THE famed Pahiyas festival of Lucban, Quezon, but is discouraged by the idea of joining the similarly minded mass of humanity headed there on May 15, why not consider yourself a day or two before the event to a place that is close to nature and just a couple of kilometers away from the town center?

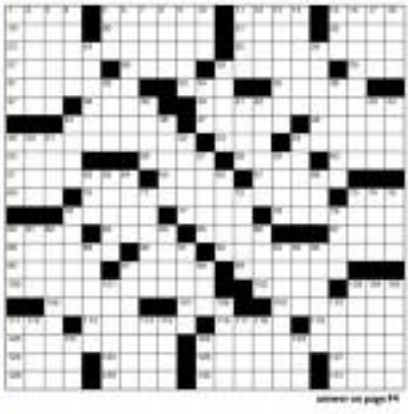
You no longer have to travel far to participate in the many events lined up for Lucban's traditional thanksgiving feast for bountiful harvest. And, after having had your fill of the celebrating, you can retreat to a quiet room or cottage for from the crowds that Pahiyas usually draws.

The Bahi Seaside Resort in Barrio Malupak

ENCHANTING D2

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — ON THE 26TH



answer on page D4

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Scrapbooking in 6 easy steps

COLLECT the materials needed to start a scrapbook.

ORGANIZE your photos.

CROP your photos.

MAT your photos.

USE coordinated embellishments.

ADD descriptions to your scrapbook page.

SCRAPBOOKING NOT ONLY PRESENTS a fun and creative way of keeping photographs in ripstop shape; it also makes reliving the memories attached to photos a wonderful experience.

Tell a person needs to create a great scrapbook are imagination and memories," says Arnie Tabacinik, a scrapbooking instructor who has given workshops to kids as young as 5 years old. Arnie says that moms who attend her workshops view scrapbooking as a stress reliever while the children consider it a big help for school projects.

"It's easier to do than most people think," she continues. "You can do it for your own pleasure or to give as a perfect gift. The time and effort you've put in it will show just how much you care for the person who receives it."

Ready to get all colorful and crafty with your very own scrapbook? All About Scrapbooking gives easy-to-follow steps to get you started.

Embrace your materials. Photos are at the heart of most scrapbooks, so make sure you have enough to choose from. But don't forget other kinds of materials you can use. It's, of course, important to have your keepsakes scrapbook album and scrapbook pages ready as well as your basic scrapbooking tools and adhesives. Keepsakes paper packs, frames, stickers, shapes, Crafter's Scrappix,' and All About Scrapbooking embellishments offer many possibilities for decorating your scrapbook.

Organize your photos. You can sort photos into smaller categories by grouping them according to events such as birthdays, vacations and holidays, or by compiling the pictures by family members. Label photos in order to record important dates and details. Use a quick-drying marker like the Bic Grip Permanent Felt-tip Marker to ensure that your labels last.

Crop your photos. It's best to select only three to four photos that capture the essence of a relationship or event. You may cut the photos you have choose into different interesting shapes or designs to make them more attractive. Also make sure that you have the negatives or a CD compilation of the photos for future use. If you are indecisive on how to go about cropping your photos, here are some guide questions to keep in mind. What is the main subject of the photo? What items in the picture detract from this main thought and could be cut out? Is there more than one detail you would like to highlight?

Mat your photos. Highlight pictures by sticking them onto different colored or patterned sheets. You decide on how wide you'd like you're mat to be. Put frames or borders to heighten the effect. Choose your theme and decorate accordingly. There are a lot of themes you could adopt, such as "A Very Merry Christmas," "Baby's Firsts" and "Summer Fun."

Select your embroidery keeping your theme in mind. Use pastel tones for a baby-theme scrapbook, bright colors and floral patterns for a summer motif, and reds, greens and golds for the happy holidays.

Use coordinated embellishments to fit your design. Use appropriate adhesives. Be has a range of acid-free, photo-safe adhesives you can use such as the Bic Glustick that's great for pasting paper and paper materials; Bic Glue Pen for fibers, threads and ribbons; and Bic All-Purpose Glue for fill materials that are difficult to secure.

Use titles. Be sure to add a descriptive title to your scrapbook page. You can go for simple titles such as "Cousins" and "Now that's fun," and include relevant details. You may also use punchy titles like "The Great Get-away" for a memorable vacation or "A Musical Extravaganza" for a concert, recital or school performance. Adding some personal thoughts, poems or quotes will also help establish the story behind those pictures.

All About Scrapbooking products are exclusively distributed by Hilea Distributors Corp. Call 637-0555.

Treasure trove of mommy treats

Scents for Mom

HERE ARE MOTHER'S DAY GIFT IDEAS from Avenue's fragrances.

Coeur Envy Me 2 is a limited-edition fragrance which has a warm, floral scent that caresses and seduces the senses with its combination of green magnolia leaves and refined violet leaves blended with sparkling orange oil. It also the captivating, woody blend of patchouli and sandalwood notes that prolong the fragrance and a touch of sweet and soothing vanilla.

Tonka Signature is a refreshing scent that has the sensual complexity of bergamot and black currant enriched with lush geranium and Italian lemon and a splash of magnolia, jasmine tangerine, rose and orange blossom.

Pure Hibiscus Pour Elle begins with a pure, light and vivid freshness from Italian mandarin and white pepper, softened by a touch of white lavender. The heart is composed of infused flowers like rose, South African flowers and jasmine petals while the base is a soft, sensual fusion of peach, magnolia wood and amber.

Nina Ricci Love in Paris is a very feminine scent that combines bergamot from Calabria, star anise, a sensual nutmeg and a touch of velvety apricot, jasmine and vanilla.

Lacoste Touch of Sun combines the engaging notes of rose, peony and jasmine, plus vetiver, sandalwood and amber for a vibrant, rosemary blend.

Hugo Pour Femme has the soulful notes of black violet and amber as well as the fresh, sparkling notes of white cyclamen and nectarine, which are complemented by the base notes of sweet white magnolia and white musk.

The scents are exclusively distributed by Bantay Marketing Corporation.

GUCCI Envy Me

RICCI Nahaeno Pour Elle and Nina Ricci Love in Paris

Time out for Mom

MOTHERING IS THE HARDEST JOB IN the world, with no breaks or overtime pay at all. That's why the best present to give mom this Mother's Day is the gift of time. Swatch and Le Soufflé have teamed up to treat mothers to a fantastic weekend of relaxation, togetherness, and love coupled with delicious food (that mommy doesn't have to cook), beautiful art (to encourage the hidden artistic moments) and enjoyment, and the leisure of time with Swatch timepieces.

On May 13, enjoy the unique experience of "Spa Al Fresco" at the poolside of Rockwell Club. Delight the senses with massages and spa treatments, including your taste buds with goodies from Le Soufflé, and join the special raffle to win Swatch watches.

On May 14, the Swatch Mother's Day Special at Le Soufflé restaurant takes off with an on-the-spot painting workshop, with some fine local artists of the ongoing "Budding Leonardos and Innocentos" art exhibit.

Those who dine at Le Soufflé that day can also join in the painting fun with the Design a Swatch for Your Mom contest. Swatch staff provides the artists' materials, you bring the creativity. The talented winners will take home new Swatch watches!

Mother special seven-course dinner menus as only P1,888++, ours must be chosen as Le Soufflé chef Jessie Sheldon has created a time-sweet menu exclusive inspired by Swatch Mother's Day Special watch for 2006. For the first time ever, it is a blue watch of leather and chrome steel with a stylized flower motif which comes in a trendy mobile tee-light candle holder packaging.

And there's more, get a 20 percent discount on Swatch and Flik Flak watches at the Swatch Lover Mom corner at Le Soufflé.

Time is of the essence so make your reservation at Le Soufflé Rockwell now.

Le Soufflé restaurant is located at G/L, Ascendo Square, Ascendo Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City. Call 9068543 or 8903558 for reservations.

Swatch is distributed by Gilt Gate, Inc. Swatch stores are located in Glorietta 4 (with Gemic Makati, and SM Megamall Building B, and Gilt Gate outlets in Glorietta, SM Megamall, SM Manila, SM Cubao, SM North Edsa, Alabang Town Center, Robinsons Place Ermita, Ali Mall, Quezon Avenue, Greenhills, and SM Cebu.

SWATCH Mother's Day Special Watch

DESIGN a Swatch for your mom and bring home prizes.

SPA arrives at the Rockwell Club on May 13

Mall treats only for moms

IT'S MOM'S TURN TO HAVE FUN AT THE Robinsons Malls on May 14, Mother's Day.

And what better way to celebrate this happy event than with a full day of pampering, beauty regimen, special gifts and selfless love as moms dubbed "Made Only for Moms, a Mother's Day Celebration."

There will be free haircut, free mini-facial spa, massage, facial, medical checkup, photos plus free bags, and product samples. Over at Robinsons Place Ermita and Robinsons Town Mall, moms can also take part in cooking demos which will be held at the Activity Area.

Registration starts at 10 a.m. at the Activity Area in Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Place Pasay, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Place Cainta, Robinsons Place Novaliches, Robinsons Place Iloilo, Robinsons Place Dumaguete, Robinsons Place Bacolod, Robinsons Place Antipolo, Robinsons Place Lipa, Robinsons Place Tacloban, Robinsons Town Mall San Pedro, Robinsons Place Angeles, Robinsons Place Dasmariñas, Robinsons Pampanga.

Free services will be available 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Call 6824157 or 6824160 loc. 780 and 782.

YOUNG World Bee King says time out for her wellness needs, the better to take care of us all.

Awards for moms

FETING EXPOSMALL AND the Mandaluyong City government will present the Award Pasugal on Mother's Day to women who exemplify the remarkable traits of motherhood.

The 28 awardees from the city's different barangays will each get a medal of excellence.

Festival Mall has also lined up various activities to mark Mother's Day.

Call consumer service at 8726114 local 5627 or e-mail it. Festival Supermall is located at the Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, Muntinlupa.

COLLECTION: blue weave basket bag

Make your mom's shopping day

HEMISPHERE HAS A SPECIAL MOTHER'S Day offer. Until May 14, customers get a free P250 gift voucher for every P2,500 purchase in womenswear and women's accessories.

Get your mom her only quality and stylish pieces from Britain's favorite store, but also a P250 gift voucher you or your mom can enjoy later on items from the lines of top British Designers like Matthew Williamson and Betty Jackson.

Better yet, why not schedule a shopping date for you and your mom? Take her to Debenhams where she can choose womenswear and accessories from over 20 designer and in-house brands. Surely she will find an extra rush when she gets the free gift voucher at the end of your spree.

Debenhams is at 3/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong. Call 6329902.

For her kitchen

TEFAL'S ACTIV LINE OF COOKWARE IS A perfect gift for moms.

Tefal Activ has a highly resistant enamel exterior with an anti-deformation base designed to withstand the toughest pressure. At the same time, it is practical and easy to use.

High infrared heat enhancing and saucepan's thermo-spot knobs allow home-body some-use while cooking, preventing the overflow of liquid when it reaches its boiling point.

It also has Tefal's signature "thermospot" or heat indicator that lets you know when your pan has reached its optimum cooking temperature. This eliminates guesswork in terms of timing and, consequently the risk of overcooking.

The best part is, Activ's nonstick interior ensures healthy cooking without the added fat. It also guarantees equal heat distribution so that food is evenly cooked at any given time.

So, treat your mom to some set of durable Tefal Activ cookware this Mother's Day. You can choose from its roster of frying pans and saucepans. It also has a wok, chicken fryer and a Dutch oven.

Tefal is exclusively distributed by Bantay Marketing Corporation and is available at all leading department stores nationwide. Call 8906761.

TEFAL active cookware

For her hair

ON MOTHER'S DAY, GIVE YOUR MOM A practical gift she can make use of every day: a Rowenta Hair Dryer. Rowenta is a German brand with a line of premium care products with innovative designs and high quality.

Moms will be delighted with Rowenta's Hair Dryers Hair Dryer. It has a temperature that allows effective blow-drying on a specific area, plus new fan power controls for medium and fast airflow. It also has three temperature controls for ultra-gentle drying, five moderate temperatures that allows pro-drying and two ionic compensator for hair styling and setting.

Unlike other hair dryers, this one works already.

Surprise your mom completely and adventurous mom with Rowenta's Images Multi-Accessories. It comes with a set of accessories or tools that are meant to create different hairstyles. You mom can curl, crimp or straighten her hair to an even, stylized using any products that can potentially damage her hair.

Images boasts up fast for quick fixing and styling and includes the following accessories: four curling irons with special irresistible shapes and dimensions, one brush device adapted to the curling iron, one crimper with two pairs of interchangeable plates and a powerful iron and quick packing.

Rowenta is exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corporation and available in all leading department stores nationwide. Call 8908761.

IMAGES Multi-Accessories

Flowers for Mom

ON MOTHER'S DAY, SEND your mom a beautiful floral arrangement from Bernard's Flower Shop, which has created a wide array of choices for this day.

It ranges from specially arranged pink-painted hydrangeas and painted phalaenopsis orchids to arrangements of European liliums, pink roses and chrysanthemums. Chrysanthemums with scores of aluminum balloons. Other gift items include feminine silk floral arrangements and mimsy accented basket pillows.

Bernard's Flower Shop is at A/F, Rustan's Makati, A/F, Rustan's Shangri-La Tower, 3/F, Rustan's Alabang Town Center, G/F, Bockwell Power Plaza and Rustan's Supermarkets in Makati, Bockwell, San Antonio, Magallanes, Eastgreen, St. Luke's Medical Center and Asian Hospital and Medical Center.

HYDRANGEAS, an old love

LOVELY scented mini pillows with silk hydrangea floral accent

Give mom a floral tribute

THE FLOWER FARM PRESENTS this Mother's Day fresh and contemporary floral designs guaranteed to please every woman who receives them.

Featured blooms include delicate lisianthus, carnations, green bells and roses, arranged in a collectible vase, basket or other special container.

To make your mother and other women in your life feel special by giving any of The Flower Farm's special floral arrangements. Even when it is not Mother's Day, you can let them know how much you appreciate them by giving them special floral tributes.

Call The Flower Farm for floral arrangements that will make Mother's Day and any day truly memorable.

Visit www.theflowerfarm.com.ph or The Flower Farm's shops in Bel Monte Greenhills (3rd Floor, Greenhills Center, Greenhills (7207122) and Montrose (7217308).

RED hot bag studded with jewel

BRACKISH: Bluemen enchanted pink charm bracelet

BETTY: Jantzen black pleated and red print wrap dress

CARNATIONS, moms and gerberas

Sassy Kitty in couture

DIVA Sandico-Ong with Animaland's "Diwata" Kitty

KATE Torralba with her "Sassy Kitty in 07"

FREDERICK Peralta with "Sassy French Walks Down the Aisle"

TO CELEBRATE MOTHER'S Day, four of the country's top designers—JC Buenaflo, Kate Torralba, Diva Sandico-Ong, and Frederick Peralta—styled and dressed up Animaland's adorable and cuddly Sassy Kitty (body sizes: 19-18-25).

"We believe we have to offer something special to the great and loving mothers out there. This year's Mother's Day promo is our tribute to the million mothers whose love to their children and families is immeasurable," explained Belinda Ong, owner of Animaland, an international chain of retail stores and kiosks that allows stuffed toy-lovers all over the world to make and dress their own stuffed animals.

Dubbed "Designer Kitties for Moms," the Mother's Day promo that will run until May 14 is giving away four kitty stuffed toys, with sizes bigger than the usual. "They are specially made for the occasion, one-of-a-kind, and as they are really collector's items. Plus the fact that famous designers are doing the duties," said Ong.

To join the promo, every purchase of animal skin entitles the customer to one raffle ticket that will be drawn on May 15 at the Animaland head office on Pemberton Quirino Avenue. The kitties will also hit Shangri-La, Rockwell, Greenwood and Alabang Town Center malls for an exhibit.

Buenaflo's Sassy Kitty donned the designer's signature couture, an elegant gown perfect for red carpet moments. Torralba, meanwhile, stuck to the young and girly rules of serious candy pink for her Sassy Kitty's outfit.

Sandico-Ong transformed Sassy Kitty into a beautiful goddess of nature, complete with a wig and a train from Animaland's accessories collection. For his part, Peralta came up with a fully beaded Indian symbol here bodice-and-a headband don't made of Mikado silk, plus a tiara made of real pearls and Swarovski crystals.

Animaland has branches in Greenhills City Link, Shangri-La Mall, Power Plant Mall in Rockwell, Alabang Town Center, and soon to open Mall of Asia in Pasay and Toys R Us in Subic duty-free.

A toast to motherhood.

Diamond Hotel Philippines honors mothers with an irresistible Mother's Day promo. All mothers who dine in any of the hotel restaurants* on Mother's Day will receive attractive gifts from the hotel.

Gift certificate for an aromatic massage at the Diamond Spa, dinner coupon for 2 at any of the 3 major restaurants and overnight room accommodation.

Not only that, every mother who dines in at Mother's Day will receive one voucher valid until June 18, 2006, which entitles the holder to a 30% discount of all cakes on display in the Kubikan at the Diamond.

Celebrate Mother's Day at Diamond Hotel Philippines and you will definitely make your mom feel she's one in a million.

*Valid only between Restaurant, Palm Court Cafe and Restaurant by Hollyhock

DIAMOND HOTEL

Rexona FOR MEN LIVE XTREME

CONGRATULATIONS XTREME WINNERS!*

5 CHOPPER RIDES + P50,000

Amel Carlos A. Cagurangan
Novaliches, Quezon City
Alvin P. Garcia
Barangay Marcelo Fortich, Bukidnon
Jose Quilisadio
Davao City
Ronald Ricardo
Metro Manila
Leonardo M. Juan
Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya

3 WILD BIKES

Joey Gutsi
Lawton, Manila
Resurreccion Bucayan
Roxas City, Capiz
Jason Sarmiento
Novaliches, Quezon City

1 MONSTER TRUCK

Teddy A. Lorenzo
Lal-lo, Cagayan

*subject to final verification

Call mom on her special day

THIS MOTHER'S DAY, SUN Cellular gives kudos to mothers by making it easier and more affordable to call them abroad using low-rate IDD Top 10 for only P1.20 per minute.

Surprise your mom and loved ones celebrating mother's hood in the US, China, Hong Kong, Canada, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, Guam and Macau by calling them and making them feel closer to home. Express how much you love your mom by letting her hear your voice, and exchange stories with longer talk time without worrying about the call charges.

IDD Top 10 is not only offers low-rate IDD calls but also creates the opportunity for you to stay connected and build ties that are more meaningful to your Mom from across the miles.

This ultimate eco-friendly service allows both You postpaid and prepaid subscribers to call abroad for only $0.118 per minute, which is even less than a local four-to-five call. What's more, IDD Top 10 has clearer communications lines and better voice quality than Internet calls.

To enjoy the service, postpaid subscribers simply enroll or enroll their account by calling 1611for 288 or visiting any Sun Shop. Prepaid subscribers, just load an IDD Top 10 call card or convert your regular load (viva 999) and purchase through sms, or through The Mall or enjoy the low IDD rate.

Visit www.suncellular.com.ph

Photo exhibit ends today

THE TOP 100 ENTRIES IN THE APPLE of My I photography contest are on exhibit until today, in the North Court, The Forum Pasig Mall.

The official awarding ceremonies will be held at 7 p.m., today.

Sponsored by 3Mservambassador Inc., the contest launched in November 2005 to capture the Filipino's passion for Apple products.

Tonight's winners were chosen by a panel of judges from advertising, design, film, media and the arts.

At the exhibit, guests can try various Mac products, including the latest iBooks, PowerBooks, the MacBook Pro, iMacs, iTunes Music, all iPod models, and also learn about the latest software.

Microworkstations Inc. is a leading distributor of networking, mobile and digital lifestyle devices with branches in Pasig City, Metro Cebu and Davao. Call 6359434 or visit www.microworkstations.com.ph

Paying homage to queens

SURE, THE LAUNDRY DETERGENT JOINS the celebration of Mother's Day with its feel big Ur D feat: Bringgd sa mga Reyna ng Gintong Sandali.

It has ejbt launched Hay Ur O Bon: Gintong Pasangal Nalbi Prizes. Lucky mothers can win a furnished Camella Homes house and lot worth P2 Million. Eight families can also win trips to Subic inclusive of accommodations.

An entry must contain a wrapper of any feel product and a piece of paper with the consumer's name, address, telephone number and signature. They should be put in a white legal-size envelope labeled with the prize(s) de. Drop boxes for entries are located in selected supermarkets, groceries and public markets nationwide. Entries may also be sent to Unilever Philippines, 1355 UN Ave., Ermita, Manila.

For the duration of feel's campaign, the television show "Home Boy" (weekdays at 6:05-7:30) will feature Gintong Sandali reunion of different mothers.

On May 13, feel's Mother's Day activities culminate with a Reyna de Mga Gintong Sandali, featuring the crowning of mothers who are Buying Gintong Sandali.

SUNF'S Mother's Day activities culminate with a Reyna de Mga s Concert.

The Gintong Hanna Concert will be held at the Cult and Center of the Philippines grounds and hosted by Boy Abunda and Ms Ai-Ai delas Ala. The draw for the P3 million house and lot will be held.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

SCANDINAVIA. Trendsetting Danish home design to the Philippines.

PIECES from Masterpiece Furniture and Interiors

Furniture and arts haven in Makati

SUMMER AT THE GARDEN

City Garden Hotel
Makati

TREE-LINED AND SHADY, MCKINLEY Garcia Street, formerly Bejasco, is a pleasant distraction from the urban jungle that is the Makati central business district. The street is a cozy designers' haven with one distinctive architecture after another.

But a bigger surprise is LBI Business Plaza, which gathers some 50 or so showrooms by seasoned exporters and manufacturers all under one roof. (LBI stands for Lanuza Barnes Industries, Inc.)

Brass showcases eclectic modern pieces. The shop has a decidedly yourblu flair. There are no-nonsense pieces, but industrialistic and simply conceived furnitures. (Call 8985443.)

Masterpiece Furniture and Interiors can craft the style or design period you want. The company is under the Santiaban Group, a veteran in furniture making. (Call 8886256.)

The Origins is an elegant home center that carries finely made home essentials. Origins also carries quality brands such as Smith & Brown, EC chairs and recliners and Ecosa. It also accepts client-specified requirements.

Origins is the sister company of Pacific Art & Décor International and Asia Pacific Rim Trade Inc., prominent names in furniture manufacturing and export. (Call 8918280.)

The Celestial Lighting & Interiors Corporation covers a wide range of furniture, from ceiling lamps to chandeliers, floor lamps, gate lamps, hanging lamps, table lamps, wall lamps and garden lamps. It also has home accents and minor furniture pieces such as side tables. (Call 8871277.)

Scandinavia Trend brings classic Scandinavian furniture to the Philippines. Per Haugaasrud, company president and a true-blue Dane, seeks to make the Philippines appreciate things Danish. (Call 8902688.)

Habi is a shop and a source of fine handwoven products from the various regions. Each region has its own peculiar weft and warp, making for its products' uniqueness and attractiveness. (Call 8982596.)

The LBI Business Plaza also plays host to art galleries and food joints such as Caffe Cremo, Caffe Bravo Resto and Foot Options Spas. The building is at 219 Nicanor Garcia Street in Bel-Air II, Makati City. Call 8871771 and 8935478.

On May 27-28, an association of art galleries, furniture and furnishing design showrooms called Grupo Bejasco, together with well-known artists, entrepreneurs and musicians, will hold On 2nd Bejasco Art and Music Festival, in conjunction with the annual Makati Day celebration.

There will be a mural painting session, sculpture installation, performances by Cuko Balbuena and the Manila Sinfonietta Orchestra, and street bazaars to be participated in by LBI Business Plaza tenants and other establishments on Nicanor Garcia Street.

For inquiries on Grupo Bejasco, call LBI or Celeste Asera at 8920948.

MARIA dining set

"On Mother's Day, we want Mom to be the baby."

For a select few, it's possible

Globe PLATINUM

Make your reservation, present your Globe Platinum card and enjoy privileges that are reserved for the very discriminating.

Mom gets a free meal when she visits Tin Hau and avails of the Tin Hau buffet or set menu and dines with 3 paying adults. Offer is from May 1 to 31.

Treat Mom to a special lunch or dinner buffet at Café Segovia that includes a complimentary cake and bottle of wine for her. For the rest of the month, Mom can enjoy a 20% discount on her total bill.

On Mother's day, Mom gets a complimentary cake and bottle of wine when she dines at Patio Cuco Cafe & Bar, Barbecue, Terrakuan or Sky Lounge. For the rest of the month, Mom can enjoy a 20% discount on her total bill.

Mom gets a free rose, cake, bottle of wine and chocolates when she dines at the Coffee Shop, Empress Court or Mezzanine from May 1 to 31.

Get a free meal and a complimentary drink at Cafe Mahal or Lanai Court! For Mommy with a minimum of three paying guests (3 + 1) on May 14. For the rest of the month, Mom can enjoy a 20% discount on her total bill.

Mom and her companion gains a 20% discount on massages (including reflexology, aromatherapy and hand massages), one of the most valued spa facilities, plus a complimentary use of saunas or whirlpool from May 1 to 31.

Mom and 3 companions can enjoy a 5-day exclusive home sale for up to 50% discount from May 12 to 14 at the conference area of Rustan's Home. Shangri-La Mall.

All offers require reservations and are valid for cash transactions only except for Diamond Rocks, Hearts and Rustan's.

For more details call 730-1000 or log on to www.globeplatinum.com.ph

only for you, ang lakas mo sa Globe

Mama Mary converts mayor

THE CONVERSION TO Catholicism of Mayor Ricardo Perdidores Jr. of Valladolid, Negros Occidental, is a heart-warming and inspiring story told in the "Miracles of Mary."

Valladolid was dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe by Augustinian Recollects in 1851.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Barang

Through Mayor Perdidores' family was right-payapa, when his mother got cancer, he prayed to a large statue of the Virgin of Guadalupe that his mother brought. His prayer was answered.

When his elder brother Jack, the former mayor, suffered a stroke and went into a coma, Perdidores again prayed to the Virgin. His brother woke up several days later.

Mayor Perdidores eventually converted to Catholicism.

He attended the Palm Sunday Mass at 7 a.m. in Valladolid, with Fr. Alfredo Gatmaitan and his assistant Fr. Bong Gamala leading the people in worship.

Cured

Inez Lucenara said she was cured of cancer of the ovary through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe. She and husband Sonny, with Romeo and Tony Pinos, went to Mexico to thank the Virgin in her Basilica.

The Philippine ambassador to Mexico, the late Jesús Cheon Jr., brought them to Msgr. Diego Monroy to witness the signing of the sisterhood pact between the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Our Lady of Mariano Parish in Bacolod-on. Mr Lucenara said Our Lady was a "sister, mother and friend," just reaching for us and for her help.

Chapel

Beside the old church of the Guadalupe in Valladolid is a small chapel built by Herman "Mayor" Lopez Jr. and his wife Delly, which has a digital copy of the original icon of the Virgin of Guadalupe in Mexico.

The chapel was built in thanksgiving for the remission of Mayor's cancer of the larynx.

Mayor's devotion developed through his friendship with Bro. Gaetano Moreira, a La Salle brother who ran the Bacolod Boys Home. Bro. Gaetano later became a priest.

Alfredo Gatmaitan, one of the orphans in the home, is now the parish priest of Valladolid. Mayor said when Fr. Gat has died, people around like deathbed one hundred times and say "Our Lady is here to take me home."

Icon in shells

Leticia Ledesma, now in her 70s, makes awesome icons of saints using shells. She did an 8" x 10" icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe and, in her workshop, she has icons of St. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Sta. Ana fiesta

The feast day of Our Lady of the Abandoned, patroness of Sta. Ana, Manila, will be marked May 11-12. A nine-day Novena of Masses began May 3.

The Virgin's image is the oldest in the church, enshrined in 1737. It has a wyeta'lan. Icon handed to her by Fr. Francisco de la Cuesta, archbishop of Manila in 1750.

Until now, miracles and special favors are attributed to her. The parish is at Bolos Gil and Pedro Paredes Streets, Sta. Ana, Manila.

As it is on every first Saturday, a healing Mass is held. Saturday services are held 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Behind the vestibule of the church's main altar is a chapel, the Camarin de la Virgen.

Eremba fiesta

Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales will officiate at the concelebrated Mass marking the feast day of Inamma Getrudes de Gula at 5:30 p.m., May 29. Novena Masses will be held at 6 p.m., May 10-18, at the Eremba Church, archdiocesan shrine of the Virgin. Fr. Sonny de Dios is rector and parish priest.

VALLADOLID Mayor Ricardo Perdidores Jr. converted to Catholicism

Basic fiesta

The feast of Our Lady of Sigkang Aara will be marked May 31, starting with a 9 a.m. Mass in the cathedral.

Mayor is Mores Mayda, con visit the Holy Family Parish on Madre Debra St., Kauai Riviera, where Fr. Omar Primo of Sta. Cruz, Marinduque has undocumented the Virgin.

Sundays

La Gracia Parishioner holds a novenario at 7 p.m. today to mark the fiesta of San Vicente de Calendaro. The de Castro family is this year's hermanos.

The Sanjuanian Dance Troupe will perform.

IMEE Lacsamana (second from left), Arlene Andres, Dr. Christine Santos Horas, the author, Ming Carlos of "Miracles of Mary" show, and Nelia Sarabia

Milestones

CHONG-SO

Sherri Lyn So, daughter of Rolando So and Serling Rian Blaza, will exchange vows with Ramsby Chong, son of Armando and Esperanza Chong, today at Pasay Church.

The bride will wear a white organdy gown with cymbal sleeves and a tailed top and fully embroidered bustline skirt, designed by Leonard Go.

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and group designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, PO. Box 2321 Makati Central Post Office 1265 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and in order to the sender.

PACHECO-MARTIN

Kary Pacheco married recently Karen Rose Martin at San Bartolome de Solidaires Parish. Reception was at Shangri-La Plaza. Chinese Cuisine, QC.

PINEDA-ORTIZ

Ryan Pineda, son of Emiliano and Carmen Pineda, and Maria Miguenetta Ortiz, daughter of Francisco and Charito Ortiz, exchanged vows at the Immaculate Conception Parish, San Isidro, Antipolo. The bride's gown was designed by Jean Hurtado.

DIMAANO-THOMPSON

Wilbert Dimaano, son of Delia and Melody Dimaano of Subic, Bataan, will marry Celeste Thompson, daughter of Angelito and Josefina Thompson of Makati, Aklan, on May 14 at Our Lady of Grace and Good Voyage Church in Subic, Batangas. Hair and make-up by Vera Ernst.

MCCANN DEBUT

Henry and Ma. Socorro Mc-Cann hosted recently a party at Serawood in Quezon City to mark the debut of their daughter Samantha. The debutante's three brothers, Carlos, Chester and Christopher, joined their sister in the 18 Roses dance. She wore a pink satin gown and then changed into a red number, as she greeted her guests and closed the the rest of the evening.

SALVADOR DEBUT

Maria Lianne D. Salvador, daughter of Jose Antonio Aseglido and Anita Salvador, celebrated her 18th birthday with a motif of flowers and butterflies at the Grand ballroom of Dusit Hotel Nikko. The second of three girls, she is a Business Administration student at Miriam College.

FISH presents

Want to have Success in Family, Ministry and Music? Then get close to someone who is successful!

the #1 Christian Hitmaker

steven curtis chapman

singer of #1 hit love song "I Will Be There" and "For The sake Of The Call" 30 Dove Awards, 5 Grammy's, 6 Children' Worldwide Adoption Ministry.

LIVE IN MANILA!

May 7, 2006
7:00 pm
PICC Plenary Hall

For Details, call George at 0915-7821332 • 633-05-86
georgetgabriel@gmail.com
http://wildbehave2006.blogspot.com

tomorrow morning when you wake up...

For the benefit of Anawim, Gawad Kalinga and Shashamah's H.O.P.E.

Soroptimist's 40th year

THE SOROPTIMIST International of the Philippines Region (SIPR) is holding its 40th biennial convention today at the Crowne Plaza Galleria, Ortigas Avenue, QC. The Philippine dispute marks the year by #50Locations.

SEMINAR ON TEACHING. The Center for Learning and Teaching Styles Philippines will conduct a seminar-workshop on "Creativity in Teaching Using Pedagogical Arts (Drama, songs, dances) and Sponges to Enhance Classroom Learning," May 29 - June 2, at De Benito Hall, Bauhaus Camp, Baguio City. Call (074) 6028833 to 6915-4458000 or e-mail ltsc2006@yahoo.com.ph.

FOOD SEMINAR. The Catering Service is set for May 10, 2-6 p.m., Bistro Culinary Center, 31a st. 7 p.m., May 9-12. Enrollees get a free Bibi and Manchi notebook. Visit the Maya Kitchen Country Store Mall, 3FL Liberty Building, N. Avad Ave. (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City, or call 8921-881, 8926-814 local 108. E-mail mailto:bambithmails.info.com.ph.

ENGLISH SEMINARS. Lorbes Communications Inc. holds Easy English seminars, 2-5 p.m., every Saturday within Manila. Call 8938866, 8008888 or 0915-9251144.

BUSINESS SEMINARS. Business make is conducting the following seminars: May 13, 20, 27 — Business Start-Up for Entrepreneurs; May 13 and 20 and June 3 — Beauty Whole Body Series; Tradition to Trends and Health. Call (02) 687-9900, 632-3816, 687-8400 or visit www.businessmakeacademy.com

CREATIVE WORKSHOP. The Tagaytay Film, Broadcast and Creative Workshops, a project of the Development Academy of the Philippines, Cavitex Media Professionals Guild of Asia and the Pacific, will hold six one-week workshops, May 8-13 and May 22-27, at the DAP Conference Center and Hotel in Tagaytay City. Call 8819401 or Tagaytay at 412-2880.

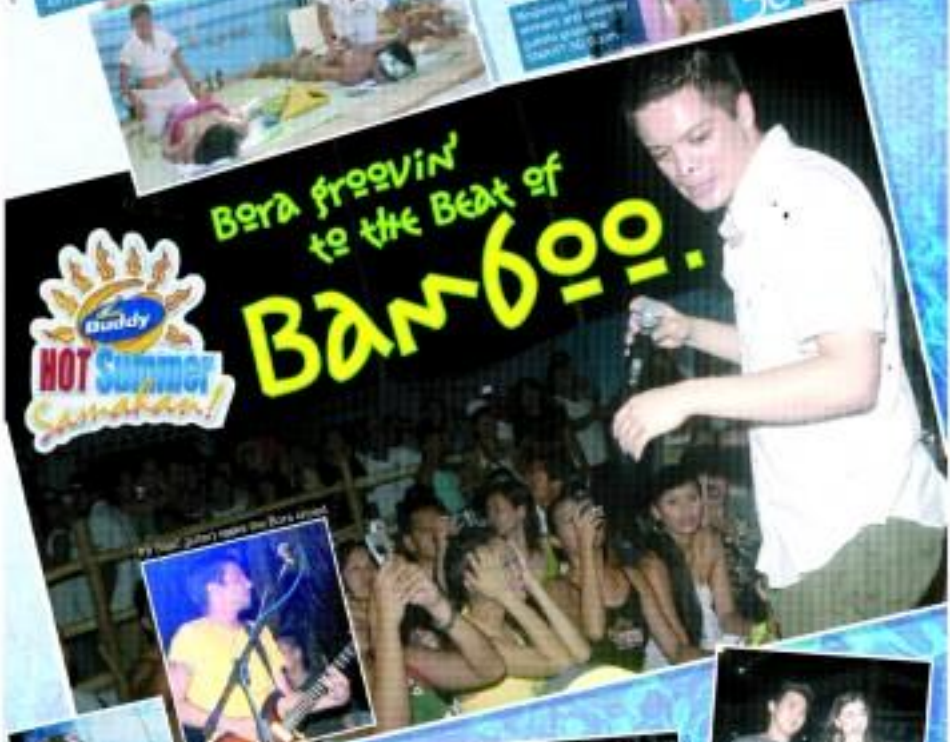
AGRIBUSINESS FOR FOOD SUFFICIENCY. The Department of Agrarian Reform will implement the Enterprise Development Project (EDP) to agriculture ventures. The project will benefit 50,000 farmers of farmers from 26 cooperatives. Call (02) 920 to 38.

REVIEW CLASSES. Endorsed by Ateneo Tutorial and Review Center's review courses for college graduates' examinations of Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University and the University of the Philippines. Review classes will be held May 15-June 3 for beginning. Call 4100000 or visit www.atenedc.com.

GOINGS ON

Bora groovin' to the Beat of Bamboo.

Buddy HOT Summer Samakan!



Bamboo wows the crowd

Be part of the hottest summer connection! Join the SMART Buddy Gang in Pampanga on May 12-13 for dedication fest of the SMART Buddy Hot Summer Samakan!

Money makes this couple unhappy

DEAR EMILY,

My boyfriend and I are planning to get married next year, but I don't know if I really want to marry him. Three years ago, I had some financial problems and used his money without telling him. I just used I got involved in the "5-6" scheme.

But he found out it was a lot and became angry.

Since then, our relationship became a nightmare. It sort of gave him the license to hurt me physically. He berates me for the smallest mistakes I make and recalls what I did over and over again. I know it's my fault. And I see done what I did, this wouldn't be happening.

Two years ago, a close male friend who now is abroad came home, and we met accidentally. He used to be my crush but I didn't know he felt the same way about me. Our "affair" affair started. My boyfriend knows about him.

Although we tried to end our relationship, I would find myself running to the guy every time my boyfriend and I quarreled.

I tried to break up with my boyfriend, telling him I couldn't stand his cruelty anymore and I'd make arrangements to pay him. I said I couldn't grow with him as I always found myself wallowing in self-pity every time we fought.

By week it hadn't changed. Something was going to happen to him or we didn't break up. But, though we patched things up, my feelings have changed.

The other guy and I are still on. My boyfriend learned about it and got mad. I promised him that I would end my relationship with my friend, but I couldn't do it. We still secretly meet and talk.

I thought my relationship with my boyfriend would change as we started to plan for our wedding. But we fought again when I was not in the mood to do something he wanted. He dug up the money issue again and my affair with the other guy.

I told him then I couldn't hang on anymore. He really got angry and told me that, instead of wallowing in self-pity, I should do something to win back his love, trust, care and passion.

I don't know what to do. I want to break up with my boyfriend. But I cannot talk to him in a civilized manner. I am unable to express myself freely because he starts screaming when I try.

He is right I should be thankful to him that, despite what I did, he didn't leave and even took care of me. But every time I make a small mistake, he brings up the old issues and makes me feel guilty over again.

My friend is waiting for me to change my mind about the wedding. He knows what's happening and always tries to console and help me see things in a positive way, which my boyfriend doesn't do. I don't know what to do.

CONFUSED BRIDE

There's so much distrust between your boyfriend and you that you've reached a dead end in your relationship. You two are just running around and around in a little circle. Your love started to sound like a broken record and you allow him to physically and verbally abuse you because you're dripping with guilt.

If this "friend" of yours really turns you and wordwounds what you're going through, why don't the two of you raise the money and repay your boyfriend with interest just to cop all this misery once and for all? Is it in the hundreds of thousands that you can't imagine paying it all back, ever?

Your boyfriend has the right to get angry for your absconding with his money.

He has also every right to hurt as you for having an affair with the other guy when you are already about to get married. But he has no right to abuse you physically and verbally. You're not even married and already he has raised his hand to anger. There's no much on happiness all around.

Are you two being held together only by the money that you owe?

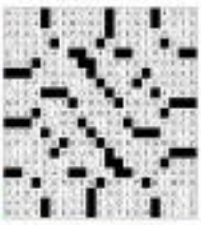
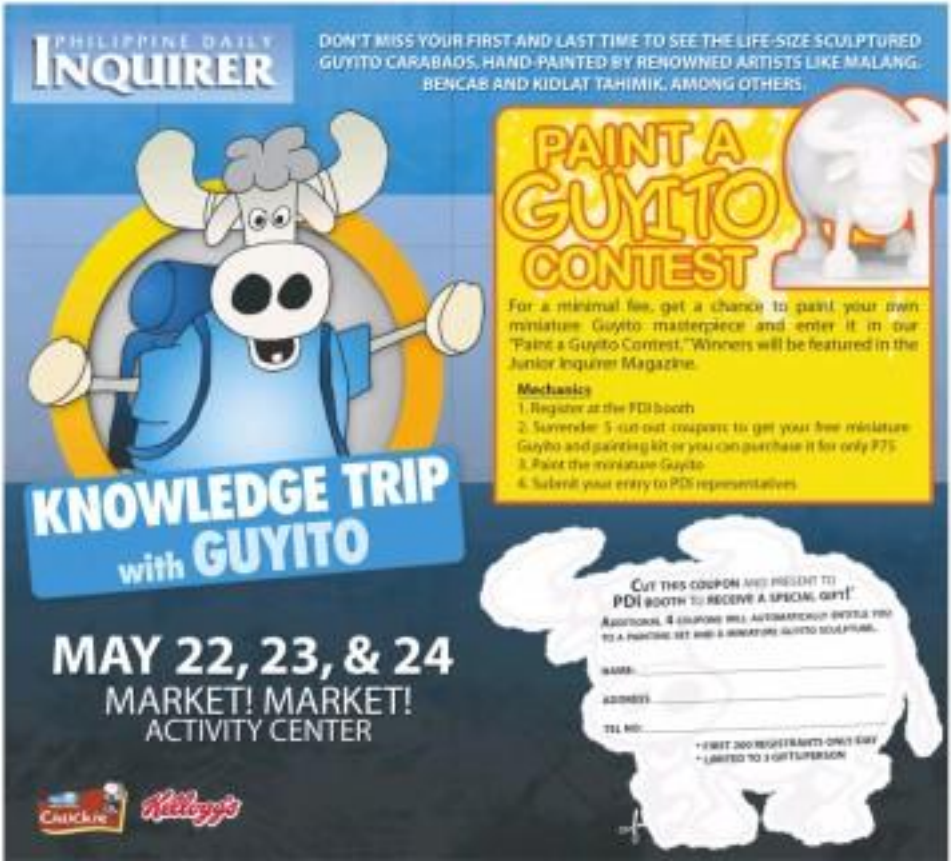
You compounded the money problem by having an affair. If it will appease him and ease your guilt, pay back your boyfriend by giving him one of your kidneys or part of your liver, if you can't give him cash!

That's a joke, of course. Just do something. Get away not only from your boyfriend but also your lover to help you clear your mind to think of what you should do next. See what you want to do. There's a difference.

You're in deep water, kid. Swim out of it before you drown.

(Erratum: I received a skewed e-mail from lawyers and concerned readers regarding the April 30 column, "Kissing (Sex) comics." They cited Article 58 of the Family Code of the Philippines that stated: "No feigning marriages shall be void from the beginning for reasons of public policy:

(1) Between collateral blood relatives, whether legitimate or illegitimate, up to the fourth civil degree; (cc) ." Mea culpa!...

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph. Subject: ejfields, or send your letters to Answer Lines to Mr. Marcelo on how the program "Kabisera Hijitsis, "7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday on dyRB 1161 FM.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD